Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

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6 April Middle East and South Asia Review

LD061341 [Editorial Report]

Hijacking of Kuwaiti Airliner

Hijackers of the Kuwaiti Boeing 747 threatened to fly the aircraft to an unknown destination if their demands are not met, IRNA announced 6 April. A statement by the hijackers demanding the release of 17 prisoners in Kuwaiti jails and calling on Iran to mediate between the hijackers and the Kuwaiti Government was earlier carried by IRNA. The hijackers said their main condition for freeing the aircraft passengers is the release of the 17 prisoners, who are under the "worst kinds of tortures" in Kuwaiti jails.

However, the Kuwaiti foreign minister rejected the demand and affirmed that the prisoners in Kuwait are well treated, Tehran radio reported. The radio's English service noted that the hijackers have told the Mashhad Airport authorities that a number of relatives of Kuwait's Al-Sabah family are among the passengers and will be in imminent danger if Kuwait fails to respond to the hijackers' demands.

The hijackers released 24 female passengers from the aircraft early on 6 April and they had earlier freed a passenger who required medical attention, Tehran radio disclosed. Two Kuwaiti women remained on board, along with the male passengers, KUNA noted. On the identity of the hijackers, Tehran television said they are six Arabs, and AFP cited a Manama press report that four of them were travelling on false Bahraini passports.

As for Kuwaiti-Iranian contacts over the issue, IRNA reported that a Kuwaiti delegation would arrive in Mashhad 6 April to talk with the hijackers, adding that the group consists of five Foreign Ministry officials and a medical team. The Kuwaiti Cabinet held an emergency session to discuss the hijacking, and expressed "satisfaction" with Iranian official announcements on the issue, KUNA noted. The Iranian authorities sent a team headed by Deputy Prime Minister 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri to Mashhad to negotiate with the hijackers, IRNA noted.

Shultz Mission

Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad told U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz that there are four requirements for a just, comprehensive peace in the Middle East, Damascus radio reported. They are: an effective international conference with full powers; Israel's complete withdrawal from all occupied Arab territory; recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and to an independent Palestinian state; and Arab participation in the international conference through a united Arab delegation.

Al-Asad explained to Shultz that there is "united Arab understanding" on these matters, the radio added. The Arab side, including the PLO, can therefore form a united delegation at the conference.

As for Shultz' earlier meeting with Jordan's King Husayn, PETRA-JNA said the talks were held in an atmosphere of "frankness and full clarity," noting that the king reiterated the "constants" of Jordan's stand on the need for an international conference. The JORDAN TIMES subsequently criticized press statements by Shultz in Amman, asserting that they "simply heighten the scepticism" of most Arabs toward the latest U.S. initiative. Arabs are pleased to see the United States resuming the diplomatic process, the paper said, but they are "amazed" that the U.S. approach is still "distorted" by an "imbalance" in favor of Israel.

Shultz' declaration that he is against a Palestinian state, against a return to the 1967 borders, and against PLO participation in the negotiations suggests that he approaches the peace process with the "awesome handicap" of being partial to Israel, the TIMES added. The Jordanian authorities have prevented Amman television and newspapers from carrying the interview with Shultz because his remarks were considered "provocative," according to Radio Monte Carlo. Over 500 Muslim fundamentalist students had demonstrated against Shultz the day before his visit, Jerusalem radio's Arabic service reported.

Another Baghdad Voice of the PLO radio commentary stated that the facts available to the PLO indicate "nothing new or positive" in the U.S. initiative, and the radio warned that there will be no progress if peace initiatives do not pass "through the gate of the PLO."

Following his visits to Amman and Damascus, Shultz returned to Israel where he held separate talks with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres before leaving for Cairo 6 April, Jerusalem radio reported. Peres had earlier listed Israel's four "noes" in any peace talks, the radio noted. They are: no to negotiations with the PLO; no to a Palestinian state; no to a foreign army in the territories; and no to the dismantling of Jewish settlements.

Israel

Two "terrorists" were killed, one was captured, and four IDF soldiers were wounded during a skirmish in the security zone north of the village of Yuval early 5 April, Jerusalem radio reported. The clash occurred after the terrorists were spotted by an IDF patrol near the frontier fence, and the infiltrators were then surrounded and overwhelmed by an IDF force. IDF sources said the band intended to infiltrate into Israel to carry out an attack on civilian targets, the radio added.

A second infiltration attempt was also foiled in another sector of the border, IDF radio reported, noting that IDF soldiers fired at "suspicious" figures who escaped but sustained casualties. The PLO acknowledged responsibility for both attempts in statements cited by Beirut radio.

In the Gaza Strip, an Arab youth was wounded in the eye when IDF soldiers fired rubber bullets to disperse a riot, IDF radio reported.

Lebanon

At least 6 people were killed and 20 wounded during fighting between Amal Movement and Hizballah gunmen in Al-Nabatiyah 5 April, AFP reported. Amal stated that its men took control of the town. Amal also announced that it took control of Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, south of Al-Nabatiyah, capturing a Hizballah headquarters, according to Voice of Lebanon radio. The radio reported further fighting in the Al-Nabatiyah area the following day. On the cause of the clashes, Voice of Lebanon said they began after an Amal official was killed in a Hizballah attack on an Amal checkpoint. Contacts are underway between Amal and Hizballah leaders in Beirut to end the dispute, Beirut radio noted.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iraq launched four "Al-Husayn" missiles simultaneously at Tehran the morning of 6 April, the Iraqi command announced in a communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. IRNA reported that a hospital was hit in the missile strike, noting that a number of people were killed, including six children. The missile attack on Tehran followed Iran's bombardment of Baghdad with two surface-to-surface missiles the previous evening, announced by the IRGC in a statement cited by IRNA. Iran also fired five missiles at Basra 5-6 April, according to a military announcement over Tehran radio.

The missile attack on Baghdad was acknowledged in an Iraqi military statement carried by Voice of the Masses, which said a number of civilians were killed when the Iranians fired "one of their missiles" at Baghdad. An earlier Iranian missile attack on the Iraqi port of Umm Qasr hit a school, killing 3 children and wounding 50 students, teachers, and other civilians, the Iraqi command stated in a communique carried by Voice of the Masses. It warned that Iraq would retaliate for this "crime."

Iraqi planes had carried out new strikes on Iranian cities 5 April, striking once at Hamadan and twice at Dezful, according to a communique broadcast by Baghdad radio. IRNA said more civilians were killed in these raids and in the Iraqi missile strikes on Tehran that morning. At the battlefronts, Iranian air defenses downed an Iraqi PC7 aircraft 5 April and a MiG-23 the following day, Tehran radio reported.

In the Gulf, Iraqi planes scored an "accurate and effective" hit on a "very large" maritime target off Lavan Island the night of 5 April, Iraq announced in a statement carried by Voice of the Masses.

On the chemical weapons issue, a senior Soviet Defense Ministry official denied a French radio report that the USSR has supplied Iraq with chemicals used in the war against Iran, Moscow radio's English service noted.

PRC Mideast Policy

PRC Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian, in a news conference broadcast by Beijing television, stated that China has not sold weapons either to Iran or Iraq; however, he noted that it is "difficult" for the PRC to "fully control" the international weapons market. The remarks followed reports by an Abu Dhabi paper that Iran had obtained 80 Silkworm missiles and 40 Scud missiles from China and the DPRK.

At the news conference, the PRC foreign minister also confirmed the sale of surface-to-surface missiles to Saudi Arabia, stressing that the Saudi Government was committed to purely defensive use of the missiles. Wu Xueqian added that the PRC joined other Arab countries in "opposing" the Israeli "threat" of military retaliation. He also told the journalists that China wants to establish diplomatic relations with Saudi Arabia at the "earliest possible" date.

Afghanistan

Elections to the National Assembly began 5 April in an "orderly manner," according to Kabul radio, adding that secret ballot conditions were being maintained in all election wards. The radio also noted that 147,300 people, including President Najibullah and Prime Minister Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, voted in the first day of the elections. According to the radio, the opposition fired at voting centers in Qandahar, Bamian, Konarha, and Kapisa Provinces and Khowst District.

Najibullah met with Vsevolod Murakhovskiy, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, Kabul radio reported. Murakhovskiy, who is leading a delegation to the Afghan-Soviet Permanent Economic Cooperation Commission meeting in Kabul, also met with Keshtmand, the radio noted.

Libya

Tunisian Relations—The General People's Committee and the visiting Tunisian cabinet concluded their joint meeting in Tripoli and issued a joint communique, Tripoli television reported. The two sides agreed to further develop cooperation and strengthen trade and communication projects. They also agreed to study an oil pipeline project from Al-Zawiyah in Libya to Tunisia's Jarjis Port and to hold direct contacts to coordinate

views on Arab and international issues. Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche and his delegation left Tripoli 5 April, the television reported.

Sudan Relations—Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander in chief of the Libyan Armed Forces, arrived in Sudan to take part in celebrations of the 3d anniversary of the April uprising, SUNA reported. According to Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio, Jabir met with Sudanese Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi.

Islamic Affairs

Ruhani Interviewed About Missing Imam al-Sadr

PM051449 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic
1 Apr 88 pp 15, 17

[Interview with Sadiq Ruhani, spiritual leader of the Shi'ites in Europe, by Zaki Shihab in London; date not specified]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] AL-HAWADITH: In a previous interview you said on 20 March you would meet with the figures from whom you obtained your information about Imam Musa al-Sadr and that they had provided you with tangible evidence of his survival. Did this meeting take place?

Sadiq Ruhani: They contacted me last night, Tuesday (last Tuesday), and emphasized, as they did previously, that Imam Musa al-Sadr is still alive and that they are in touch with him. I traveled to London to meet these sources. They did not turn up, but contacted me. They contacted me, as agreed, last Monday in Paris to arrange the next step. But what I can say openly is that Imam al-Sadr is still alive. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: When you first announced that Imam al-Sadr was still alive you said he would reappear in Cairo 2 weeks later....

Sadiq Ruhani: I said there was an 80 percent chance of him reappearing in Cairo. I said perhaps. But you understand political issues and I do not want to add anything to what I have already said. The matter might be delayed for 3 or 4 months to discuss political issues with world figures.

AL-HAWADITH: Have they informed you of the imam's present condition, the authorities detaining him, or his whereabouts?

Sadiq Ruhani: I did not ask them because I have no right to do so. They told me he was alive, but I had no power to ask them about his whereabouts. They just told me that the issue is linked to the fate of the region, but apart from that I have a personal link with the imam.

I am an Iranian of Iranian origin and all my activities concern Iran. I certainly do not want to interfere in Lebanese affairs. My objective is to topple the president of the Republic of Iraq. I carry out my duties both inside and outside.

AL-HAWADITH: Some recent reports from Beirut indicated that you had suddenly disappeared from Paris.

Sadiq Ruhani: No. It is not a question of disappearing. Every year I take a 10-day holiday on the occasion of the Nowruz (the Iranian New Year). That is why I left Paris.

AL-HAWADITH: You said that it was planned that you would meet with these people in London.

Sadiq Ruhani: I said they contacted me the day before I left for London.

AL-HAWADITH: Are these people Arabs or foreigners?

Sadiq Ruhani: Foreigners. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat To Visit Moscow for Talks 7 April

LD060902 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
0600 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] A Palestinian diplomatic source in Moscow has revealed that Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, is due to arrive in Moscow Thursday on an official visit in response to a Soviet invitation. 'Arafat will hold a series of talks with members of the Soviet leadership led by Mikhail Gorbachev on the Palestinian issue, latest developments in the occupied Arab territories, and the Iraq-Iran war.

This will be 'Arafat's first visit in response to an invitation from the Soviet leadership since Mikhail Gorbachev became leader of the CPSU. Late last year the Palestinian leader took part in the festivities marking the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution and had brief talks with Mikhail Gorbachev.

Fatah's Khalaf Asks Rejection of Shultz Plan

JN051739 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic
4 Apr 88 p 1

[By 'Amid al-Shanti]

[Text] Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, also known as Abu Iyad, has warned Arab parties against accepting Shultz' new initiative. He said no one accepts replacing the Palestinian people and their leadership. In a statement to AL-QABAS, Salah Khalaf said: We hope the Arabs will adopt an explicit and overt stand rejecting this initiative, which disavows the heroic Palestinian people's rights.

Abu Iyad stressed that the Palestinian people's uprising will continue until the establishment of our independent state on the soil of Arab Palestine. He said: This will be achieved thanks to the struggle and cohesion of our people in and outside Palestine.

Abu Iyad greeted the popular revolution in the occupied territories, adding that the sun will soon rise. He said continuous meetings were held in Tunis over the past days to discuss the latest developments of the situation in the occupied territories and how to step up support in all its aspects to our people in the occupied territories. He said many resolutions were adopted in this respect.

Abu Iyad urged the Arabs to show more solidarity with the Palestinian people during this critical stage they are experiencing.

PLO Radio Rebuffs Shultz' Claims of Progress

JN051938 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1703 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Station commentary: "The Noticeable Intensification of the U.S. Maneuver and the Fierce Escalation of the Zionist Crime"]

[Text] Brothers, sons of our great Palestinian people, and sons of our glorious Arab nation: While our uprising escalates, our offerings continue, and our creative ability surpasses all bounds, the overall political moves that are taking place around us and around our heroic popular uprising urge us to observe meticulously the axes of this political move the United States is intensively conducting these days. We also must accurately analyze the minor details of the stands of others, including the Zionist enemy and some parties in the Arab region.

We start with George Shultz' third tour, which he began in occupied Jerusalem yesterday. He held separate talks with Prime Minister Shamir and his partner Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. Following these two separate meetings, some signs were made by the U.S. Administration and by the Zionist entity. The first of these signs was made by a ranking official in the U.S. State Department, perhaps by Goerge Shultz himself, who said some kind of progress toward peace has been achieved, that the disparity of viewpoints between Shamir and Peres has been narrowed, and that the most prominent points of agreement between these two, each of whom separately met with George Shultz, is their rejection of giving the international conference any prerogatives. The second sign was made by the Zionist Foreign Ministry, which said Jordan is currently the center of attraction and that any positive stand by Jordan on Shultz' initiative could place Shamir in a dilemma.

Thus, the cards are now being dealt openly. The outlines of the joint U.S.-Zionist move have become clearer and leave no secrets unraveled and no room for conjecture.

With one move, which resembles a magician's sleight of hand, we find that what was termed at the time as Shamir's intransigence in facing Shultz no longer exists. What was also termed at the time a disagreement between Peres and Shamir no longer exists either. If we go back to the story from the beginning, we will see there has never been any U.S.-Zionist disagreement or any differences between Shamir and Peres while the propaganda trumpets tried to imply to the Arabs that there were insurmountable points that were ironed out.

The propaganda trumpets have also sought to make the Arabs believe that this constitutes a step forward toward peace, according to the U.S. viewpoint. Therefore, the Arab party or parties must abandon the insurmountable points to which they remain committed.

That's why it is important to be very accurate in following and understanding the successive chapters of the U.S. maneuver that is taking place before our eyes and that is in line and in harmony with the escalation of violence, terrorism, and crime the leaders of the Zionist enemy are carrying out against our heroic people, who are continuing their heroic uprising.

In spite of the fact we in the PLO have announced more than once that we approach any positive developments with an open mind, the facts we have on hand indicate nothing new or positive in what the United States is trying to impress on us through its intensive propaganda. An international conference devoid of any prerogatives means there will be no international conference in accordance with the concept we as Palestinians and Arabs have agreed on. The insistence on advance recognition by the PLO of Resolution No 242 means a return to square one, from which have erupted all our differences with the United States and with many other parties.

What then are these new elements and what is this progress toward peace the United States claims has taken place? The U.S. maneuver revolves around itself. This maneuver resorts to the method of propaganda to the utmost, uses the method of pressure on some Arab parties also to the utmost, and uses the method of Zionist violence and terrorism against the Palestinian people to the utmost, on the assumption that all this will make a suitable breach through which this maneuver will achieve the objectives of aborting the Palestinian uprising and nurturing Palestinian-Arab differences and intra-Arab differences anew.

One of the most prominent signs of U.S. pressures is the continued postponement of the Arab summit and the emergence of Arab voices implausibly justifying this postponement depite the fact the ordinary Arab citizen realizes that the United States and the United States alone is responsible for the postponement of the summit. Why? Because the convocation of the Arab summit, at this time in particular, is a kind of an Arab immunization with a united stand that stems from their previous resolutions, which are themselves a legalization of the Palestinian constants.

We tell the United States, the Zionists, and those who maneuver with them here and there that no progress has taken place with respect to Shultz' initiative and that there will be no progress if peace initiatives do not pass through the gate of the PLO. This is our firm decision. We know this decision will cause us trouble and pains with some Arab parties and that we will pay a prohibitive

price in terms of blood in the arenas of our continuous struggle with the Zionist enemy. However, this is our decision and our option which we will defend. Revolution until victory.

PLO Official Hails Soviet Afghan Stance
LD041658 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1130 GMT 4 Apr 88

[From the Novosti newscast]

[Text] In putting forward deliberately unacceptable conditions at the Geneva talks on settlement of the situation involving Afghanistan, Islamabad is endeavoring to undermine the process of solving this complex regional problem. [Video shows caption "TASS Reports"] In this connection, particular significance accrues to the consistent, peace-loving initiatives of the Soviet Union. Here is Sulayman al-Najjab, member of the PLO Executive Committee.

[Begin Al-Najjab recording in Arabic with superimposed Russian translation] The position held by the Soviet Government creates all conditions necessary for solving the Afghan problem since it corresponds to the interests of those who desire peace and at the same time puts a barrier in the path of those who would like conflict in the region to continue. The leadership of the PLO and the Palestinian people as a whole are following the current development of events in Afghanistan with great attention and interest, since normalization of the situation in that country could serve as an example for dealing with crisis situations in other regions of the world, including the Near East. [end recording]

PFLP Groups Attack Qiryat Shemona Settlement
JN051524 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1500 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] The PFLP military spokesman said in Damascus today that instructions were given to the martyr Guevara Ghaza group and the martyr Hatim al-Sisi group to attack the Qiryat Shemona settlement this morning. The first group clashed with the Israeli forces, using machineguns and hand grenades and aiming at Israeli concentrations surrounding the settlement. The clash was continuing while this statement was being prepared.

Israel sent armored vehicles and helicopters to the scene of the battle, according to the Palestinian spokesman's statement.

PLO Radio Assails Arab Stand on 'Uprising'
JN042021 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1654 GMT 4 Apr 88

[Station commentary: "What Must Be and What Must Not Be"]

[Text] Brothers, O masses of our great Palestinian people, O masses of our glorious Arab nation: Violence and clamor are escalating and the conflict is extending. On the scene there are only two contradictory and disputing parties. Here are the Palestinians under the banner of their sole legitimate representative, fully united and completely determined to escalate the confrontation, defiance, and struggle to regain all their inalienable national rights.

Also, here are the Israelis, along with their iron fist, their occupation, and their war machine as well as with their U.S. ally, all their grudges and aggressive aims and all their crimes, repression, and evil ideas.

If we look at this scene, then we will not find an Arab brother standing alongside those whom he should support—his Palestinian brothers. Following is some details of this clear picture: Amid the escalating conflict, Shamir speaks loudly, threatens, and warns the Palestinian national uprising and its masses. Meanwhile, Shamir's army and all its repressive tools are continuing their ugly crimes against our people. On the political level, Shamir defines his Israeli constants.

He says: No, we will not accept an international conference regardless of its form. We will not withdraw from Judea and Samaria, as he names the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Shamir adds: We will not negotiate with Palestinians and we will crush them with the rocks of Israel, and so on.

Moreover, in an interview with the U.S. NBC television station, Shamir boasted, for propaganda purposes, that he will not punish, as he put it, U.S. Secretary of State Shultz because he met with Palestinians belonging to the PLO, but this does not mean Shamir will accept the results whatever they may be.

On the same television station and in a lengthy televised interview, Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] defined the Palestinian constants and aims in a crystal-clear manner. Brother Abu 'Ammar asserted: We will accept what international legality and all its resolutions related to the Palestine question may give us. We will continue to adhere to an international conference which has full powers and which should be attended by the PLO in its firm capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people on an equal footing with the remaining parties to the conflict.

The leader of the revolution and the people explained: The conflict is lengthy and the victory will be the lot of the party that has the longer breath. Our breath has been tested and it will always be the longer breath. This is because our belief in victory is complete, deep, and sure.

From the same Israeli trench, U.S.Secretary of State George Shultz is still repeating his five noes against the PLO, the Palestinian people, their inalienable national rights, their independent state, and a just and comprehensvie peace. Except for this, we hear no voice and we see no effective presence for a third party. In painful specification, there is no unified Arab voice that

unequivocally declares its position in this conflict and with what side it stands. Here, we are not talking about statements of support and condemnation, but about a clear and definite political stand vis-a-vis the uprising and the U.S. plans which aim at containing this uprisng and extinguishing its flames.

The PLO reiterates and affirms, through its Executive Committee and the Unified National Leadership, that the mammoth national uprising, its people, and the entire Palestinian cause do not want from the Arabs at this stage more than one simple and basic thing; namely, that they adhere to the resolutions of the Arab summits, especially those of Fez, Rabat, Fez II, and Amman.

Briefly, what is required is that the Arabs adhere to their resolutions and their peace plan and to their documented alignment ot the Palestinian cause and the just struggle of the Palestinian people under the banner and leadership of the PLO to regain their full inalienable national rights.

As yet, the brothers have no position in the clear picture of the conflict, neither politically nor through effective financial support for the mammoth national uprising of our Palestinian people. What, then, should happen? What should continue?

This Arab absence is an ember in the uprising's garment. This Arab silence and the quiet reception of Shultz is a stab in the back to the uprising that should not have originally happened and which should not continue. The world and voice of the Arab brothers should join with the voice of the uprising. We, just once, should close the doors of our Arab capitals in the face of Shultz and keep them closed until the U.S. Administration changes its completely biased policy toward the Israeli enemy.

The emergency Arab summit should not wait until now to choose a venue for its convocation. The Palestinian popular uprising should also not be left without the efficiency of its strategic depths and it should not be left alone on the battlefield. We should not pave the way and give the opportunity for Shultz and his Israeli ally to single out the uprising and its people. The uprising has its sacrifices and martyrs who consolidate its decision and determination to continue regardless of the cost to achieve its victory and objectives; namely, ending the occupation and regaining freedom and independence. Without achieving this, before achieving this, and until this is achieved, what should happen should happen, either we be or [not] be.

South Asian Regional Affairs

Proximity Talks on Afghanistan Continue

UN Mediator Holds Meetings

BK051626 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] Intense diplomatic activity continued in Geneva today regarding the finalization and signing of the Afghanistan peace accord. The UN mediator, Mr Cordovez, twice met the Soviet specialist on Afghanistan, Mr Nikolay Kozyrov, and also had a meeting with senior Pakistani diplomats. The minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr Zain Noorani, is to meet Mr Cordovez later today in a formal session. A chief delegate of the Kabul regime will also have a separate meeting with him later on.

APP, quoting UN sources, says that intense diplomatic activity is going on in Moscow and in Washington, besides Geneva.

Noorani Comments on Talks

BK060346 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Excerpts] The leader of the Pakistani delegation at the Geneva proximity talks, Zain Noorani, has said our effort is to find a lasting solution to the Afghanistan issue.

Speaking to newsmen in Geneva yesterday, he said all the parties concerned are making efforts to realize this objective. When asked whether there was any indication from the Soviet Union about any concession on the simultaneous ending of assistance to the Kabul administration and the Afghan mujahidin, he said all parties should make concessions to realize this objective.

He said no party can adopt a stubborn stand on the simultaneous ending of Soviet assistance to the Kabul administration and U.S. assistance to the mujahidin. Zain Noorani said the results of the talks will be known within a few days. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, a senior Soviet official has said it is possible that the Soviet Union may not adopt a stubborn stand in opposing the U.S. demand for simultaneously ending military assistance to the Afghan mujahidin and the Kabul administration.

The Soviet expert on Afghanistan, Kozyrov, told newsmen after his meeting with the UN representative, Diego Cordovez, that it is difficult to say that the Soviet Union will stick to its stand.

Chad

Government To Participate in OAU Meeting

AB051959 Dakar PANA in English 1744 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] Ndjamena, 5 April (ACI/PANA)—Chad's Minister of Foreign Affairs Gouara Lassou has said that the country will participate in the forthcoming meeting of the summit of the OAU ad-hoc committee to resolve the conflict between Chad and Libya.

In the first official reaction of the government to the meeting to be held in Addis Ababa from 24 May, Lassou said on Monday [4 April] in Ndjamena the country would participate in any move by the OAU to resolve the conflict on the Aozou Strip, bordering Chad in the north with Libya.

The meeting, originally scheduled for Dakar from 10 to 12 April is a follow-up on the ministerial meeting of the six-nation committee. Libya was represented for the first time at the meeting in Lusaka. Committee chairman, Gabon's President Omar Bongo, has called on Libya's leader Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to be present at the summit. The countries in the committee are Algeria, Cameroon, Gabon, Mozambique, Nigeria and Senegal.

Radio Bardai Reports GUNT Rally in Tripoli

AB052217 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1825 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] After the signing of the agreement on 19 March 1988 between five political and military organizations—the People's Armed Forces [FAP], the First Army, the Democratic Revolutionary Council [CDR], the Chadian Armed Forces [FAT], and the Western Armed Forces [FAO]—we are now expecting the announcement of the establishment of a (?governing team).

According to well-informed sources, the new GUNT that will be formed will comprise only a few ministers in view of the economic crisis and the current stage of the struggle.

According to a correspondent's report from Tripoli, Comrade Goukouni Oueddei, chairman of the GUNT, chaired a large people's rally in the Libyan capital that was attended by several [word indistinct] and Chadian nationals, (?including the signatories) of the 19 March agreement: Comrade Al-Hadj Mahamat Abbat Said of the First Army, Nadjita Yonhombel Bassoumi of the FAT, Rakhis Manani of the CDR, and Aissa Moussa of the FAO.

Comrade President Goukouni Oueddei delivered an historic speech in which he reviewed the history of the liberation movement. He made a self-critical analysis of the tragic divisions that occurred within the GUNT, divisions that were harmful to both the factions and their leaders.

He also underlined the causes of the failure of the attempt to achieve national reconciliation with the Ndjamena regime, and on the [word indistinct] of the cooperative relations between the Libyan and Chadian revolutions. But the most important passage of the president's speech was on current efforts to revitalize the factions.

BBC Carries Report on Opposition Forces

AB051046 London BBC World Service in English 0630 GMT 5 Apr 88

[From the "Network Africa" program hosted by Ofeibea Quist-Arcton]

[Excerpt] [Quist-Arcton] Suddenly, after quite a long silence and a definite lull in reporting, things seem to be bubbling again in and around Chad. This comes 6 months after a cease-fire temporarily stopped the Libya-Chad war. Could fighting soon erupt again?

And it seems that the two warring partners, Chad and Libya, are not the only countries involved in all this. We have on the line from Paris this morning Paul Michaud. Paul, exactly what else is going on?

[Begin recording] [Michaud] Well, at the moment there is a very interesting thing happening. After a year when very little has been going on, there has been renewed preparations for war with Chad, especially coming from Libya. In Benin recently, the Beninois authorities have been meeting with a number of opposition figures to Hissein Habre, notably Acheikh ibn Oumar, who is the president of the Conseil Democratique Revolutionaire, [Revolutionary Democratic Council] the CDR, which has proved to be these past years the most dynamic part of the GUNT and neo-GUNT forces, these political anti-Hissein Habre Chadian opposition movements.

Now, what has happened these past few weeks with Benin? The Beninois have put at the disposal of Acheikh the Bembereke commando training camp in the north of Benin. That is interesting too because traditionally, the Chadian opposition has been trained near Cotonou. So we have this camp in the north...

[Quist-Arcton] So are you saying that they are actually rearming to launch an offensive against Hissein Habre in Chad?

[Michaud] Definitely. In fact, my informant in Cotonou tells me that Libya has 2 weeks ago delivered (?10.4) tons of arms at Cotonou military airport which was sent up country to the Bembereke military camp.

[Quist-Arcton] So who's behind all these moves? I thought it was meant to be peace time in Chad.

[Michaud] Well, it was peace time. There were a number of attempts made especially via Paris, via countries like Togo but nothing else worked out terribly well. Goukouni himself had attempted these past few months to sign an agreement with Hissein Habre but apparently he is now convinced—he's just told the French weekly LE POINT—that there is really no peace in sight for him.

So Benin has taken advantage of all this to (?order) the preparations again, securing the opposition to Hissein Habre. In fact, they are just (?having census) in Benin of Chadians living in the country to see how many people there have been going up country for training. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Egypt

Mubarak on Shamir's Stand on U.S. Plan

NC051737 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1650 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Excerpts] Cairo, 5 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has expressed gratitude to the Japanese Government for constructing the new cultural and educational center in the exhibition district in Al-Jazirah [in Cairo] at its own expense at a time when Egypt's economic situation would not allow it to build such a center.

In a statement he made after touring the cultural and educational center, which houses the new opera house, President Mubarak praised the new center which, he said, will contribute to the propagation of Egyptian culture and art since it includes an opera and numerous and varied artistic installations which contain very modern technological equipment in addition to one of the most modern theaters in the world. [passage omitted]

Responding to questions by foreign journalists regarding the prospects for the success of George Shultz' new tour, the president said: If a desire for peace exists, then a way will be found. The Arabs have such a desire, which we are trying to develop and increase constantly. Shultz and the United States have made tangible efforts. However, what Shamir wants is important because he is one of the major parties concerned with the issue.

The president remarked that he cannot understand Shamir's ambiguous stand on the U.S. plan, noting that this stand is not clear as to whether he accepts or rejects the plan. He added that despite Egypt's numerous contacts, Shamir continues to insist on being obstinate.

Asked whether the Palestinians will participate in the current moves which seek to attain peace, the president suggested that Shamir should accept the convocation and the procession of the meetings of an international conference. He said that after that happens, the ball will be in the Arab court. The president added that in the event the Palestinians do not participate in the peace moves, then the Arab party will be the one to blame.

Editorials View U.S. Peace Initiative

Shultz' 'Great Difficulties'

JN051533 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 4 Apr 88 p 7

[Editorial: "Confrontation!"]

[Text] There is no doubt that during his meeting with Shamir, Shultz needs to muster all the patience, composure, breadth of vision, astuteness in confrontation, and dexterity in evading crises that he has acquired during his long political and diplomatic experience.

This is because he will be facing a man who has become a Don Quixote, impervious to reason and a new testimony to the folly of standing against the course of history.

In his recent and current moves, Shultz has been careful to give some hope that the issue can be settled, while Shamir has been doing his best to wipe out any such hopes. Shamir also stands with his back to the wall, not knowing which way to proceed, even if his actions lead to evading the confrontation.

We notice here that the man has run out of reasons for attacking the U.S. initiative. He has nothing new to add since undermining the foundations of this initiative more than once—before Shultz' first tour, during his visit to Washington, and after this visit. He now turns his attention to the Palestinians, pours his wrath on them, and intensifies his broadsides against them to the point that he recently described them as vermin that deserve to be crushed.

This clearly shows that he has lost his balance, because in the past he used to ridicule the Palestinians and make them appear to be of little importance. The cause of this sudden rage is not only the escalation of the revolutionary uprising, which is continuing in spite of the barbarism of the occupation authorities, but also because the uprising has succeeded in gaining ground politically by imposing itself on the calculations of diplomats and invigorating the cause.

Shultz' meeting with two U.S. professors of Palestinian origin before his arrival in Israel, and especially the PLO's support for this meeting, have been seen by Shamir as new fuel for the U.S. siege on Israel. Shamir believes that this step, although a modest one that will probably lead nowhere, is the first step on a long march toward new possibilities that no one has taken into consideration and that bode ill for Israel, although everyone believed the Israeli Government's fist alone was in control. But since, as all indications show, the military grip has failed in the occupied territories, what guarantees can Israel have that a political grip will succeed?

Shamir's Israel believes that this is the most important point. Shamir believes that any wager on the future, with its untold repercussions, is more perilous and hazardous than the wager on the present with its many difficulties and troubles. That's why the man has become more obdurate, intransigent, and apprehensive about the possibilities that these vermin may resort to various methods to erect, as he believes, a lofty and impregnable edifice.

That's why Shultz will be facing great difficulties.

Columnist on U.S. Aims

JN011525 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic
29 Mar 88 p 14

["Opinion" column by Mustaf Amin]

[Text] A good many people are skeptical about the U.S. Mideast peace initiative, believing that it aims primarily to end the uprising that has proved quite a headache for Israel and alienated world public opinion, including even the United States. They point to the closure of the PLO New York office while George Shultz engages in shuttle diplomacy as a gross violation of the very charter whereby the United States undertook to respect the world body's immunity, and this despite a UN resolution passed by a majority of 148 votes with Washington and Tel Aviv casting the only negative votes.

On top of that President Reagan declares that Israel is Washington's foremost natural ally and as a token of affection and allegiance sends a gift of American aircraft to Israel to coincide with Shamir's visit to the United States. These add up to signs that the United States has no intention of playing the honest broker in the Arab-Israeli dispute. Washington seems to be interested in forcing Palestinian children to drop their stones. If it were not for these stones, George Shultz would not have bothered [coming], and the United States would have sent a less senior State Department official.

Reading American newspapers and listening to American radio broadcasts we have sensed real change in U.S. public opinion; without this change the United States would not have dared let Secretary Shultz receive two Americans of Palestinian extraction, or let the latter even come anywhere close to the State Department. A more important development, which has yet to materialize, is for President Reagan, who has the Zionist votes very much on his mind as the November presidential election approaches, to change.

The Zionists both in Israel and the United States insist on looking on the Arabs in Israel as the latter-day Red Indians. As far as they are concerned, a solution to the Mideast problem will be possible only after the Palestinians have been either annihiliated or forced out of every inch of Palestine. The United States must be firm and just, and accede to the Palestinians' right to self- determination at the proposed international conference or forfeit the Middle East once and for all. It is tragic that the United States alienates the world just to please Israel.

ROSE AL-YUSUF Hails 'Uprising,' Land Day

JN051954 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic
4 Apr 88 p 7

[Editorial: "Palestinian Land Speaks"]

[Text] Israel has mobilized all of its forces to face the escalating Palestinian uprising on Land Day. Yet, Israel failed abjectly in stemming this escalation. The uprising spread in all of the occupied territories as well as in Israel proper.

The Israeli Government declared Arab areas in the occupied West Bank and Gaza closed military zones and tightened the repressive measures which it has been imposing on the Palestinians for the last 4 months. The authorities canceled the licenses of several shopkeepers and closed some Arab banks in the occupied territory to prevent the flow of assistance to the Palestinians. Large concentrations of Israeli troops were stationed on streets and alleys in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and troops were ordered to open fire on demonstrators.

The authorities canceled the demobilization of reservist officers and men to reinforce its troops stationed in the West Bank and Gaza. The authorities detained a large number of Palestinian youths and boys and threatened severe punishment to demonstrators.

Despite all this, and despite repression and bestial action, the entire occupied Arab land was engulfed in demonstrations and mammoth marches. A general strike called by the Unified National Leadership of the uprising was observed throughout the occupied territory. The strike was even observed by several thousands of the 700,000 Palestinians who reside in Israel proper. Demonstrations did not cease from early morning until darkness.

The Land Day events in Palestine have proved that the will of those who fight for their rights is stronger than that of the forces of tyranny and occupation. Therefore, the final word will be for those who are fighting for their rights. Victory will be theirs if they remain united no matter what tools the occupation forces may invent and regardless of its new savage methods.

Al-Qadhdhafi Urged To Heed Mubarak Warning

NC010548 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2240 GMT
31 Mar 88

[Text] Cairo, 31 Mar (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR has advised Libyan Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to think a hundred times about President Husni Mubarak's friendly warning before committing another of his follies for which he has become famous, and which might be his last.

In an editorial headlined "Al-Qadhdhafi's Ploys Never End," appearing in tomorrow's edition, the paper says: Once again we see a new ploy which the Libyan colonel offers from time to time in order to entertain a world suffering from severe problems in various political, economic, and social fields. The aim of the new ploy does not differ much from that of his former ploys—namely, to draw attention to the fact that he is still alive, despite the failure of all his known attempts and plots.

AL-AKHBAR adds: Col al-Qadhdhafi needs no introduction; his personality needs no elucidation, except for the various crooked ways and means that he clings to, particularly regarding his relations with the Egyptian Government and people. He, unceasingly prepares plots to shake the (?stability) and security our country enjoys. To do this he uses the money of the wronged Libyan people. In addition to plots which Egyptian security forces have foiled after seizing Al-Qadhdhafi's agents red-handed, he buys agents and smuggles explosives and weapons to create as much sabotage as possible and sow division among the Egyptians,

The paper says that Al-Qadhdhafi's new ploy is testimony to the Libyan colonel's vivid imagination. At the same time, it also reveals the naivete of his thinking, believing that he can deceive his country's public by hinting that his forces have been stationed along the Egyptian borders and that he has decided to withdraw them to show his good intentions. This is an old and worn-out ploy that cannot be maintained for long; the truth can be discerned very easily. What still lies hidden, however, is the nature of the new plot behind this claim of opening the borders with Egypt planned for the coming days.

In conclusion, AL-AKHBAR refers to the tale of diverting the [word indistinct] Lake Nasir waters to the Libyan desert following the failure of his dream of the great river project. It says that this story needs no comment, revealing the mentality behind it and its soundness.

Opposition Parties View Emergency Law Extension
JN021941 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
31 Mar 88 p 3

["Text" of a statement to the nation issued by the opposition parties; date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. On Sunday, 20 March 1988, the country was shocked by a serious event: The government extended the implementation of the emergency law provisions for more than 3 years. This event occurred at a time when the opposition parties responded to the ruling party's call for a dialogue on crucial issues of interest to our people out of the opposition's belief in its responsibility toward the people, and also out of its eagerness to participate in moving the country out of its grave crisis as a result of the ruling party's policies.

The opposition's viewpoint was clear: Achieve a solution to the country's crisis begins by tackling the issue of democracy and political freedoms. The opposition parties were unanimous that ending the state of emergency would be a positive start by the government and its party as well as a genuine step toward making the people participate in resolving their problems, which are intensifying daily.

In the two dialogue sessions, the ruling party pledged that the issue of ending the state of emergency would be the first item discussed. The ruling party also promised to have the opposition parties participate in the ongoing debate on this issue. Moreover, the ruling party representatives also promised a closed meeting between President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and opposition leaders.

Undoubtedly, the government's surprise for the People's Assembly members was the issuance of a presidential decree extending the emergency law, which was enacted in 1981. The government's insistence on a speedy discussion of this serious issue at the same session has dangerous indications. Extending the emergency law is a disregard for public opinion which, despite its various political affiliations, has unanimously urged further democracy and political freedoms, and demanded that the state of emergency be cancelled and that the country be returned to a normal life.

It also represents an insistence by the government and its party on continuing a policy hostile to democracy in order to conceal the government's failure to resolve the masses problems and pave the way for the adoption of economic decisions that will increase the people's suffering. It is also conclusive proof that the government feels it is isolated from the nation despite its fabricated parliamentary majority, which the government created through known methods and whose legitimacy is questioned. There is clear-cut proof that the government has lost its credibility before the people and undermined its dialogue with the opposition parties.

Extending the emergency law for 3 more years cannot bring about security and stability. It is inconceivable that President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's first presidential term is entirely under martial law and that his second term begins with 3 more years of martial law. This anomalous image of rule under extraordinary laws cannot achieve security, nor can it provide stability. It will, however, escalate tension and distress. History has taught us that all terrorist incidents occurred under martial law, and that emergency laws protect the worst forms of corruption and looting. Moreover, martial law will not quell the masses indignation but will kindle it further; citizens will lose the remaining feeling of affiliation and also their desire for work and production. Furthermore, martial laws will increase investors avoidance of participating in development.

Extending the emergency law is a sign that the government will further undermine freedoms. This will obstruct the legitimate channels before political action. This will make citizens feel more frustration and isolation from public action. It will also open the door to sedition, sectarianism, extremism, and the spread of violence and counterviolence. Undoubtedly, all of this will weaken the Egyptian people's ability to confront outside challenges and dangers posed to our country and the Arab world in these crucial, historic moments.

The opposition party leaders assert that the imposition of the emergency law during this time has turned this law which, naturally, is an extraordinary law, from an exception to a rule. This constitutes a flagrant violation of the Constitution and law, and also casts doubt on the government's legitimacy. The opposition party leaders hold President Muhammad Husni Mubarak responsible for the grave consequencies resulting from the continued imposition of martial law.

According to the Constitution, the president is responsible for emphasizing the people's sovereignty and respect for the law and the Constitution. In addition, according to the Constitution, the president assumes the executive authority and draws the state's general policy with the participation of the Council of Ministers.

Out of a realization of their responsibility before the people, the opposition party leaders declare their resistance, through all legitimate ways, to the continuation of martial law. Out of their feeling of the need for positive action, the opposition party leaders held a series of meetings last week to define measures to expose the governemnt's behavior before the people. In this regard, a decision was made to suspend publication of the opposition newspapers, a day for each newspaper in turn. The papers abided by this decision.

A decision was also made that the opposition representatives would withdraw from the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council during some sessions. This decision was implemented during the Consultative Council's meeting last Saturday.

To reveal all facts to the people, the opposition party leaders decided to hold a popular conference to declare the demands and the integrated steps that will increase action against the continuation of the state of emergency. Similar conferences will be held in all governorates, and will be attended by the parties and some political and popular leaders.

Out of their confidence in the masses' awareness and out of their feeling of the popular rejection of the state of emergency, the opposition parties declare their determination to continue mobilizing public opinion until the people's struggle is crowned by cancelling the state of emergency and the extraordinary conditions, and also by conducting constitutional reforms so that a normal life will return to the country.

Violence Continues in Asyut; 60 Arrested

JN041135 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
1 Apr 88 p 1

[By Fikriyah Ahmad]

[Text] Asyut—Acts of violence continued in Asyut yesterday for the 3d consecutive day. The security forces held the families of the extremist groups in Dayrut and Sallam as hostages. The State Security Intelligence also arrested 60 students and conducted large-scale search campaigns of houses to apprehend the leaders of the extremist groups. The Central Security Forces also imposed a military siege with cars around Dayrut and nearby villages and prevented the citizens from going to work.

The family of Muhammad Qutub 'Abd al-Majid, a student killed by the security forces, attempted to disinter his body in order to hold another funeral for him after they had buried him on their own and the security forces had prevented the people from participating in his funeral. Stringent security measures were imposed on Dayrut.

The health of 'Ali 'Abd al-Rahim 'Ali, a student who sustained serious chest wounds during Tuesday's bloody incidents between the security forces on the one hand, and the extremist groups and Dayrut people on the other, has deteriorated. He has not yet left the resuscitation room at Asyut's public hospital.

In a statement released the day before yesterday, Dr Ahmad 'Abduh, leader of the religious group in Asyut, warned of the seriousness of provocations against the Islamic trend in Egypt. He held the Interior Ministry responsible for the escalation of bloody incidents and stressed that they will lead to more tension.

The situation exacerbated when the security forces used tear gas and opened fire on the religious groups and on Dayrut people who staged a peaceful march to condemn the security organs' encroachments and violation of Islamic law.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Speech to Joint Commission

LD051013 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic
2042 GMT 4 Apr 88

[Speech by Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at the 4 April session of the joint higher Libyan-Tunisian commission in Tripoli—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, we would like warmly to welcome our brothers from sisterly Tunisia. We are proud and happy about their presence here with us and the honor they do us by visiting their second country. This is the third meeting of the joint higher commission which encompasses the Council of Ministers of Tunisia

and the General People's Committee [GPC] of Libya. This unionist activity began in 1983. It was delayed somewhat; now it is being resumed anew in the era of the new Tunisia and the era of 7 November.

If we appreciate the political value of this activity we will no doubt work to safeguard it. This is because it leads to unity in a very normal and calm manner. Those who do not appreciate the value of this activity are mistaken because the nation in fact is compelled to unify its ranks and capabilities, not for sentimental reasons—I mean that Arab unity is not a mere sentimental action but a necessity, particularly during this era. Hence, any means to bring about Arab unity—and we would prefer this to be in a calm and peaceful manner—should not be compromised. This is because any attempt to bar the way of unity will lead to violent reaction.

For this reason the reactionary and regionalistic regimes in the Arab homeland, just as in other nations that have struggled for their unity, are being subjected to violent upheavals because their regionalism bars the way to Arab unity. It is short-sightedness to view Arab unity as the current regimes in some Arab countries do. Arab unity is the future. Nobody has the right to veto the future of the generations of the Arab nation.

At this stage the masses have become aware and they refuse to allow themselves to be transformed into a herd on a farm with boundaries and shepherds. Those who want to immortalize themselves and remain rulers for life, crowned or uncrowned as well as sultans, are the ones who are trying to transform the people of the Arab nations into herds of sheep on farms which they own to the extent that they leave these farms to their sons generation after generation. The Arab masses have now become aware and refuse to be flocks of sheep on farms privately owned by rulers, kings, or sultans. Those who desired this have been swept away by the current. They are now in museums and the garbage cans of history.

But we should not be too meticulous with regard to unionist action or confine it to tight corners and say that this particular format is the only one that will lead to unity. There are many paths to unity. I believe that we have embarked on the easiest one of them all—with this calm, peaceful, and fraternal meeting. Let us try this path. But at the same time we must realize that we are not the only people who decide the fate of Arab unity. If we fail there are others who do not want to fail. If we bar the way of unionist action, there are people who will storm the blocked path by every means available. We exercise our pan-Arab and national duties only as long as we are in these positions and use them as soldiers fighting for this nation's unity and for gathering together its capabilities and dispersed people.

It is wrong to imagine otherwise—it is wrong to think we will decide the fate of the Libyan and Tunisian people as well as Arab people everywhere. It is wrong to imagine that if we say no, unity will not be achieved. No; we may say no, but unity will be achieved through the work of others. The sincere person among us is the person who uses the responsible position he now occupies to bring closer the day of Arab unity. He should realize that he is only participating in this as a soldier and that he does not hold in his hands the final word and judgment on the fate of unity. Since the first day of the Al-Fatih revolution we have been making sincere efforts to bring nearer the day or Arab unity. Serious attempts have been made; we have tried all means. It may be said that unity has failed. But I believe that these experiments have taught us useful lessons and brought nearer the day of Arab unity. These experiments have become a legacy for the unionist struggle which cannot be taken lightly.

One of the means of achieving unity that the experiments have shown is the one we have in our hands—that is to say, executive establishments in the Arab countries, such as we now have between Tunisia and Libya, can begin by holding joint meetings. When they meet they set up a joint higher commission which looks into the affairs of both countries as if the two were one country. This is the executive. Therefore it is possible for us gradually to unify everything between the two Arab countries. After that we find that unity has been achieved in the form of the exceutive and in a practical, peaceful, and gradual manner.

Naturally this does not preclude other steps to achieve unity. [words indistinct] which we are not aware of, but we have before us some work whose political value should be appreciated and respected. It is a civilizing activity. It proves the ability of the Arabs, that they can advance toward unity in a peaceful and practical manner.

The Arabs have only one way of achieving unity and agreeing among themselves, and that is to reject violent action, noisy action, disarray, the closing of borders, and so on. I believe that the means we have in our hands now deserves respect, and it will gain the respect of others because it proves that we can achieve unity in a reasonable and peaceful manner.

It is said that Europe, with its basic differences and its various nationalities, languages, and nations—nations that fought each other for scores of years—in spite of all this, established the EEC, which will be turned into a politically unified Europe. This action is described as a civilizing action becaused these nations are civilized. I see the Arab nation is not lacking anything. It can do even better than this.

If Europe with all its resources—each state has an income greater than the entire Arab nation—has been compelled to establish economic and political unity, the Arabs have all the more reason to work night and day to establish unity. In our eyes, unity is not an emotional action or a slogan. Unity is a necessity for the gathering of economic resources in this day and age. Economic

resources need protection, and protection leads to military unity. If someone creates economic unity and protects it with military unity it takes political action, and this leads to political unity.

This is the essence of unity. Naturally, the regionalists, the reactionaries and those who want to control one of the groups of Arab people as a herd of sheep, and have their children inherit their rule after them, are the ones who are putting a broomstick in the wheels. It is they who cast doubt on Arab unity not because Arab unity is open to doubt but, for reasons of family, individual, or self-interest, they feel Arab unity must not come about. Consequently every regionalist and isolationist ruler continually spreads doubts about establishing Arab unity.

We do not expect him to be an optimist in this respect; because it is not in the interest of his family, or against him personally. The one who is optimistic about the future of the Arab nation and who affirms that its unity is possible, and that it will emerge, is the Arab citizen who knows that this is possible and necessary.

Thus when he hear the voice of the masses anywhere we should realize that this is the correct thing—the correct thing is what the masses say; they are the ones who are entitled to the future and who have the right. When the flock rebels there will no longer be a ruler or a shepherd. There is nobody who is supposed to own a flock without actually having a flock; a shepherd of what? If the flock rebels then that is it, there will be no shepherd. The final word will always be that of the ordinary citizen. In actual fact the governments and the official organs which belong to these governments are the ones which establish the border posts, the borders, the passports.

As for the citizen, he is always rebelling against that. We call him an infiltrator or someone who has fled and we arrest him. This is proof that citizens do not recognize borders and that it is in his own interest to have Arab unity, and that he is motivated to move freely inside the one Arab homeland, but the rulers themselves are in a struggle against this citizen, the citizen is rebelling against borders; he does not recognize them.

Evidence of this can be found in the fact that this infiltration phenomenon, or what is called infiltration from one country to another, is in actual fact an expression of these ideas. [Al-Qadhdhafi turns to some of the delegates who wish to smoke]: Anybody who wishes to smoke can do so; there is no objection; smoking is not prohibitted; it is allowed. At the first and second meetings between the Tunisian Council of Ministers and the GPC in Libya I told them, as I remembered some things from history, that some time ago delegations from Barqah and Tripoli used to sit down together. When each delegation spoke, they referred to Barqah as sister Barqah and to sister Tripoli. Then the independence of Barqah was declared.

When independence was declared, they said: God willing, sister Tripoli will join us too. That was a joke in Libya; we laughed at it then, and we laugh at it today. This has become a myth. When you tell it to the Libyans today, they do not believe that at one time there was a delegation who used to say sister Tripoli or sister Barqah. Libyans may be astonished to hear it and they do not believe it. They say: Could there be such a thing? Now that has become a joke for us. I told them that in time people would laugh at the fact that we used to meet, one representing Tunisia and one representing Libya, and we would both say sister Tunisia and sister Libya; I mean it is possible that a future generation living on this united land may laugh at this which will become a myth.

I mean, how were we brothers? We are one people. In actual fact, what is a laughing matter today was a myth even when it happened. I mean it was not permissible for Libya to have been what it was—divided; with calling Barqah as a sister and Tripoli as a sister. When Idris al-Sanussi said that in Banghazi—when he declared the independence of Barqah and said that, God willing, sister Tripoli will join us too—the people, who were applauding him threw their shoes and footwear at him; they hit him with their shoes. He fled the celebrations and entered the building which used to belong to the British authorities—the building where he stood outside and made that speech—the premises of the Chamber of Deputies in Banghazi. The people hit him with their shoes. They asked: What is meant by sister Tripoli? He as a ruler said sister Tripoli. Those who made this sister and that sister and this country and that state or that kingdom were the rulers themselves. But the people wish to hit with their shoes those who give such names—like they did with Idris al-Sanussi. They actually hit him.

The 1st of September could have been influenced by that incident—I mean at the end he was hit. This action was a cultural action and should be a political legacy to the respected and honored. This makes us confident that this nation is one and that this people is one. There is no parallel in the world to what is taking place; a whole state government going to another state in order to meet within a joint commission. When the GPC in Libya go to Tunisia and meet with the Council of Ministers, and today the Tunisian Council of Ministers have come to Tripoli—I mean there is a spirit behind all this which makes it acceptable.

The GPC in Libya is not permitted to go to France and meet. Equally, the Tunisian Council of Ministers is not permitted to go to Italy or France to hold meetings, to carry out joint action. This is not permitted. Psychologically it is not acceptable. You will reject it even if politicians say that you should go; you will reject that. Why? It is because we are Arabs; one people, one homeland. We meet here. Why? Because we see nothing odd in that we are one people from one homeland. In fact we see this as a necessity. I want to say in actual fact: In this hall the GPC of Libya met with the Algerian Council of Ministers and set up a joint commission. They also met in Algeria after that.

The YAR Council of Ministers came here to this hall and met with the GPC and established a higher joint commission. The GPC will go to Sanaa at a specified date. We, in Tunisia and Libya, are holding the third meeting. My presence here today with you—I mean in actual fact that I have no political or administrative authority, but my presence is due to the fact that your action is a unionist, pan-Arab and revolutionary action—this action falls within the revolutionary tasks which concern me. Thus, I am attending this meeting and this opening because this is a unionist action.

What I would like to say is that when you meet, whether in Tunisia or Libya, we should forget that we come from Tunisia or from Libya; we are a unified higher commission which looks into the issues of the two countries. It is within the right of the Tunisian Council of Ministers to discuss and give the benefit of their advice on issues concerning the Libyan compatriot in any municipality in Libya. Likewise, the GPC in Libya can look into the affairs of our brothers in Tunisia in any province—Tunisia has a provincial administrative system—I mean to look into the affairs of compatriots in any province in Tunisia and in a joint manner. By this I mean that both of you look into what the Banghazi municipality needs and what the Kairaouane municipality needs, for example. This is what we wish.

This is what we want. This is the philosophy and the spirit of this meeting. We do not like it to be two delegations, one representing the Tunisian side and the other the Libyan side. No, we want it to be in a joint form which does not say Tunisia and Libya. We should be together. We want to tackle things municipality by municipality, governorate by governorate. We should have confidence in ourselves and in our joint action and joint possibilities. It should be clear to you that this has been our intention since the outbreak of the revolution.

Consequently, all attempts to oppose and confuse our actions or to evade or annul them them have failed. It is, however, the unionist action and unionist platform which has endured and has remained. It will triumph even after we have gone. This action will triumph. It is because this correct direction is the one that will triumph.

Do not attempt to run away from facts. Arab unity is a fact. Attempts will fail. They are futile attempts. The truth is Arab unity. Arab unity is a fact and it is a necessity. For example, that the two countries of Tunisia and Libya should pool their resources in the interests of the citizens is a fact and a necessity. To hamper or water it down or to run away from it is a conspiracy and, really, a futile action really. Its authors will fail.

Its authors have fallen, in actual fact. The regionalist course, the conspiratorial course, and the course of hypocricy have all fallen. They will always fall and will fail. Only the sincere and united supporters, those who work for others and forget themselves, are the ones who will triumph, not those who think about becoming a president or who think about becoming a king or sultan. They do not think about how to bring about unity, liberation, or dignity. They contradict one another.

I consider 7 November to be a victory for the revolutionary course, the unionist course, the civilized course. It is a defeat for regionalism and for withdrawing to oneself, conspiring, subservience. In fact, 7 November was an inevitable result of the Arab unity crisis, the crisis of relations between the Arab people in Tunisia and the Arab people in Libya. It was inevitable; 7 November was the inevitable result, because falsification cannot remain law.

The natural truth is law. This is a lesson; 7 November gives a lesson to others. Falsification, no matter how long it lasts, will fail. It leaves nothing behind except disgrace and dishonor. Regionalism! What can it leave behind? What can falsification leave behind? Subservience! What can it leave behind? What can negligence leave behind and what would treason leave behind? They leave behind disgrace and dishonor, and their authors will end up in the garbage can of history. But civilizing action and unionist action, a struggle for higher ideals and for others will bear the fruits and prosperity.

I would like that this work should compensate for what has gone astray. The two sides should respect it; its continuation lies in its success. If it produces results for the citizens of the two countries and we feel that there is some benefit from it, then it should impose itself on us. We will not be late for the next appointments. This is what must be. The citizens of our two countries and the governments and institutions of our two countries should feel that this work is for their benefit. Consequently, it should not be late in forthcoming. The atmosphere calls for its continuation. We must gradually get rid of regionalism. We might sit together once, twice, or three times in a spirit of regionalism which is inherited, to some extent. But these sittings are training courses for unionist action. How can the Libyan be a Tunisian and Libyan at the same time, and how can the Tunisian be a Libyan and Tunisian. In the end, how can we be Arabs. It is because we must be Arabs first.

A day will come when the executive bodies will all meet together in Tunisia, Algeria, Sanaa, Syria, or Libya, and we will automatically find that we have been deceived by the borders. We were deceived by the superstitions which we have lived with: that we are a nation which cannot be easily united. The executive bodies would meet (?in the form) of a Council of Ministers comprising several Arab countries—in the long run, this is unity. That is when we plan together and implement together. Unity is not something which is difficult.

There is a move in the world today toward local rule. It is not necessary for Tunisia and Libya to have just one province, governorate, or municipality. On the contrary, all over the whole world now large units are divided into

small ones within the federal framework. Each of the U.S. states is a state—with its own government, parliament, police, and institution. However, in the end there is a single political, economic, and defense structure of a U.S. state. We have to perceive unity in this way, especially because the Arab homeland is spread over a large area. I do not believe there could be a central unity or a unity that is integrated to the extent that is imagined. Not at all; it is assumed that there would be autonomy, provinces and municipalities, with a framework that will bring together economic resources and political activities to the benefit of this unity which, internally, would have multi-administration.

In this context, regarding the situation between Tunisia and Libya, I would like to say something else. This is the first meeting under the new Tunisian era, under the glorious 7 November. The credit goes to brother Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, the hero of 7 November, and his supporters such as brother Hedi Baccouche and other supporters who made 7 November, which removed a great obstruction to the path of unity, release, and liberty.

For our part, we have been considering borders as nonexistent; not only between Libya and Tunisia, but with all Arab countries. Any citizen, from any Arab country, can enter Libya directly, without permission. We have no right to object to an Arab citizen traveling in his Arab homeland. What used to be called infiltration has been abolished, and I explained to you a few moments ago that the phenomenon of infiltration is a reality that differs from this infamous term. Any citizen from Libya, Algeria, or Tunisia may enter from any point, and this undermines Tunisian measures inside. If the citizen wants to leave his country, we will accept him at any point; but if you do not want him to leave, that's your right. If you agree, it is alright by us for him to enter at Ra's Jadir, (Dhihibah), or any other place. We regard him as free to live anywhere, and we will ask him whether he has found work or not. We do not fear, because we do not differentiate between a Libyan and Tunisian.

This is a myth created by colonialism; it was fed by colonialism. It was cared for by the regionally orientated rulers who wanted to transform the homeland of this Arab people into flocks of sheep. They made us fear each other. They used to tell us that infiltration is dangerous and that danger comes from across the border. All this is in actual fact lies and myth, and I will prove that it is a myth. Tunisians or Algerians, or Arabs from anywhere, will enter Libya in the thousands and nothing harmful will take place. Fear of what may come from over the border will be removed. There is no border post between Libya and Sudan; Sudanese enter Libya in the thousands; they work here. Those who do not find employment may return to Sudan. I believe that there is no border post between Libya and Algeria—border post along the land border I mean. Between Tunisia and Libya there is a border post at Ra's Jadir. On our behalf and on this occasion, we abolish this border post because it is not necessary. I mean its function is abolished. A Libyan citizen can leave via the Tunisian border post; the latter will receive him. If the authorities at the Tunisian border post allow him to enter Tunisia, then he will do so. If the authorities do not want him to enter Tunisia, then he will return to Libya. This is because the Libyan border post will not function at all. There will be no stamping of passports at the Libyan border post; the citizen will just pass through. The Libyan border post shall not prevent a Tunisian from entering Libya; it will not stamp his passport; equally it will turn him back. Anyone wishing to enter Libya may do so. This Libyan border post is abolished and we declare its abolishment on this occasion. This naturally will not affect the measures taken by the Tunisian authorities, which may prevent any Libyan from entering Tunisia—it does not matter whether or not a Libyan is denied entry. Those who are denied entry will return. If he is told: please go back, then he will return.

If there is a Tunisian who is told that he is not permitted to leave Tunisia because he is wanted for one thing or another, for example internal matters, then he will return to Tunisia. But if you allow him to leave, then the Libyan side will allow him to enter—this permission is granted in advance. At the same time, there was in actual fact a military division regrettably deployed along the Tunisian border. This was because we feared that Tunisian territories might be used against Libya. Now we have become sure that the United States made attempts to use Tunisian territories against Libyan territories; that means that our assessments were correct, our fears were true.

The heroes of 7 November were among those who prevented the United States from using Tunisian territories against Libya. Therefore, we now also declare the withdrawal of this entire division from the western border. We will save this military effort for another location. As long as there are Arab territories beyond our western border and these Arab territories will not be used against us, then this border is safeguarded. We place our forces in the areas which are not Arab territories and which the enemy can directly enter. If there is an Arab territory beyond our border and that Arab territory will not allow the use of foreign forces against you, then there is no reason for deploying the armed forces along Arab borders.

We consider Tunisia a defensive and secure area insofaras our western borders are concerned. The same applies to Algeria. Consequently, there is no need to place military forces along Arab borders as long as those borders are not used by foreign forces. As for the question of fear at the use of an Arab force against an Arab force, this is not actually feasible. We do not expect it at all, not in our time. In any other situation, we do not expect brothers to fight one another, a Tunisian fighting a Libyan, or a Libyan fighting a Tunisian. This is a possibility not only now, but also in the foreseeable

future. (?Why should they). It is illogical that such a thing should happen between Algeria, Sudan, and Egypt. The fear was of foreign forces using Arab territory against Libya.

You know that the Egyptians officially said that the United States has asked them several times in previous years—at the time of Al-Sadat and at the time of those who came after him—that the United States asked Egypt to carry out a military action from Egyptian territory against Libyan territory. They said: We rejected this. After 7 November we learned that the same request, the same attempt, was made with regard to Tunisia. For this reason, there were Libyan military forces and military areas along the Egyptian borders and along the border with Tunisia. We announced their withdrawal from Egypt, and now we announce their withdrawal from Tunisia. It is a secret that is being revealed for the first time. Its revelation is proof that our hearts have become clear, that today we are not like we were yesterday, and that we have become brothers in order to strengthen confidence, brotherhood, security, and tranquility between us and along our borders.

The truth is that there was a military formation called the Badr Formation. Its task was to operate inside Tunisian territory if the United States used Tunisia against Libya. Today we declare the dissolution of the Badr Formation, and present its weapons as a gift to the Tunisian Army and Tunisian police. [applause]

As for Egypt, we would like to inform the brothers present, and particularly the brothers in Tunisia, that we have announced the same measures. We regret very much that they have been met with rejection, contrary to what the Arabs were expecting. Also the efforts made by the brother Arabs in Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, and Sudan have failed. They all made efforts with regard to withdrawing the military forces by the two sides from the borders.

When we announced the withdrawal of military forces the Egyptian president regrettably (?seems to) reject this and said that there are no military forces. Yet the whole world knows that all the Egyptian Army is deployed along the Libyan borders, and this because they have no other borders. I mean, is it deployed along Sinai? What is the job of the Egyptian Army today? They have have no border except the Libyan border.

We have withdrawn our forces, and the Egyptian president appears to be in a quandary. What will the Egyptian Army do now that the Libyan Army has withdrawn from the borders? What will the Egyptian forces do in the western desert? Actually, he is personally removing the Egyptian Army and he does not know where to put it. He previously had justification. Libya announced that it would not fight Egypt, that it will not go to war with Egypt, and that it will withdraw its military forces and abolish the eastern military area.

Yesterday the Sudanese president's relative [reference to Mubarak] was talking to me, and he said to me: We want to withdraw military forces from the two countries, from the Egyptian-Libyan border, and the brothers in Egypt would welcome this and agree to it. After we agreed, he said that this is World War I tal[illegible], and that there were no Libyan or Egyptian forces on the border. This is incomprehensible, because he was talking to the Sudanese president every day telling him: Please let us withdraw forces. Unless, perhaps the meeting between Al-Mirghani, head of the Sudanese state, and Husni Mubarak had taken place during World War I—perhaps. I do not know. How did this mess occur?

I also proposed another plan which is remote from all current problems—the linking of the Nile Valley to the great man-made river. Regrettably, he refused. He refused with complete irresponsibility. Although proceeding from the Great Man-Made River idea...[Al-Qadhdhafi pauses] this idea inspired Turkey—I believe that you may have heard of the Turkish project—to build a man-made river passing through Syria and Palestine, and then to the Negev or Sinai desert, and another branch passing through Iraq to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates. Of course, this project will take 30 years according to preliminary studies. And this great river will cost billions. However, serious work is now being put into studies and tenders. It is, of course, hindered due to the existence of an occupied Palestine and it may create an artery to feed the Zionist entity on Palestinian land—if the river reaches it. Otherwise, the Turkish project would be a great feat, because there is an abundance of water in Turkey and it needs to move the water elsewhere.

This will also benefit Turkey; it will bring returns for Turkey and the returns will continue. Turkey is contemplating this work to bring water to the Arabian Peninsula; while our plan to link Lake Nasir with Kufrah, and Nubariyah with Tobruk was rejected by Mubarak. He says no. This is unreasonable. Arabs as a whole and at all levels were saddened by this. They were saddened by this Egyptian position of rejection; no, no, no. I wish no would be extended to the Israelis—no to the Israelis; no to the United States; no to U.S. maneuvers; no to recognizing the enemy. Then we will accept no to the Great Man-Made River; no to the withdrawal of forces; no to the opening of borders; no to meeting with the Israelis; no to meeting with the United States.

We accept these noes if Egyptian logic adopts all these no's with regard to all these issues. But Egypt said yes with regard to the normalization of relations with Israel; yes to the staging of U.S. military exercises; yes to the U.S. occupation; yes to submission; but no to Arab unity; no to the opening of Arab borders.

Alright, we say that we have opened the border—an Egyptian can freely enter Libya and a Libyan should freely go to Egypt. He said: No. I did this in actual fact according to repeated and urgent requests from the

Egyptian people, the Egyptian opposition, and Egyptian parties. I will send official messages to the Egyptian parties which request this from me—and to all the Egyptian circles which requested this from me—and say: You have insistently asked me to declare the opening of the border. Alright, I have abolished the border. The Egyptian Government has said no. The Egyptian parties which used to insist on this should confront the Egyptian Government.

What kind of an Arab is the one who you ask to open the border and he says no? He is not the master of his own will, or he fears for the Israelis and the United States who are many in the streets of Egypt. But in return we are continuing; we are committed to the opening of the border with Egypt, to the withdrawal of armed forces, and to the proposal of linking the Nile Valley with the great man made river. If the present Egyptian rulers are incapable of realizing these things, then others will realize them. These ideas will triumph. Those who oppose these ideas will be placed into the garbage can of history and will fall; they will ultimately be hounded by curses, and not by glorifications. Glory and action will be for this cultural and historic proposal which changes the terrain of Arab land and Arab reality.

These are the projects—the regionally oriented and doubted policies—which are failing. Evidence of this lies in the fact that we are now in Tunisia in the era of 7 November and are once again brothers, meeting without any obstacles. At every meeting and with every passing day, another of the obstacles which used to exist falls—the forces which used to be deployed along the border with Tunisia used to disturb us; in actual fact it was, as far as we were concerned, a source of shame that our forces, the revolutionary forces, were deployed along an Arab border. But in actual fact that border was not Arab. We were afraid that the United States would enter across that border. Now we are confident that the United States will not enter across the Tunisian border, and therefore the Libyan Forces should be withdrawn from the border with Tunisia. The formation which was prepared to operate inside Tunisian territory no longer has a task now and is abolished.

I am in actual fact very grateful, not only from this position but also as a unionist Arab citizen. I am very grateful to see the brothers from Tunisia and Libya meeting on the premises housing the GPC and around the table used by the GPC. They now sit around the same table as the GPC for the two countries, or as a Council of Ministers for the two countries, as an executive authority for both countries.

Brothers, it is not in our interest at all to doubt each other or be stingy toward each other, because this will be of the utmost triviality. This is because one day there will be no differences between a Tunisian and a Libyan. Supposing that there is a case of fraud inside Libya—against a Libyan municipality. This would be an act of treachery, and would be illogical; it would be as if the act had been committed against Tunisia. You should look at matters and bear in mind that there should be no differences between the two countries.

Will you please take back with you my greetings to my brother Zine El Abidine, hero of 7 November. We and his brothers here are awaiting his visit at any time to welcome him. We congratulate you on 7 November once again at this occasion which has brought you all together, led by your brother Hedi Baccouche, a hero of 7 November, who is a master, an intellectual, a politician, and a struggler. There is no need for us to explain to him the value of Arab unity and the bitterness of colonialism, regionalism, and struggle if the latter is waged independently against the forces of colonialism, and how different that can be when he receives assistance from his brother! He knows the tragedies of the presence of borders and the tragedies of colonialism.

As long as Hedi Baccouche is in charge of the executive authority in Tunisia as a prime minister, I can rest assured that there is a struggling and experienced man who knows the value of this struggle and the value of life. The other brothers—you too have had much experience; there are strugglers among you, too. The important thing is that you should be confident about your brothers in Libya. Their hearts are opened and their country is open.

At this stage, I would like to advise the GPC in Libya to do whatever is necessary in the interest of the new era in Tunisia and to overlook Libya's interests at the present time. Our interest now lies in the fact that the new era in Tunisia should become firm. This is the service that can provided by us—to protect this new era. This is because if this era becomes firm, the common interests of the two countries will be realized. We do not want at this stage to say: What will Libya get? We should say: What does Tunisia want at this stage which will firm its new position and new regime, even at the expense of Libya? This is because the return is greater than the benefits which Libya may ask for at the present time. I wish you success. Peace be upon you. [applause]

Baccouche Speech at Commission Meeting

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[Speech by Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche on 4 April in Tripoli at the opening session of the Libyan-Tunisian Joint Higher Commission meeting—recorded]

[Text] On behalf of all the Tunisian brothers present, we express our happiness at our presence in the Jamahiriyah, our country, with our brothers. We are in need of mixing with one another, to know one another, and to engage in dialogue with one another.

This is an excellent occasion on which we deliver to you personally, to all the brother officials, and all the brothers in Libya, the greetings, the appreciation, and the optimism of His Excellency President Zine El Abidine

Ben Ali, who attaches the highest priority to Tunisia's relations with the Arab countries, to the relations of the Tunisian people with its Arab brothers everywhere, and to relations between the Libyan people, or rather the Arab people in Libya and the Arab people in Tunisia.

The portentous visit that you paid gave enormous momentum to this trend that we have clearly wanted since 7 November. I want, in your presence, to present my thanks to the brother officials for the warm welcome which, in fact, is not surprising from brothers to brothers. However, after a long absence, somehow, we are deeply pleased to see relations resume. We are glad of them.

I want also to tell your excellency that in Tunisia President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali is closely following the blessed march in sister Libya and he is also following the way the revolutioanry spirit that erupted [words indistinct] on 1 September 1969 in the Jamahiriyah has remained strong and impetuous. We want to congratulate you on this. This transpires from the highly significant words which we have heard and which contain both a trend and decisions.

It is not just words and trends; we in Tunisia have been following the way in which the revolutionary spirit in Libya has dealt with the issues of freedom when you demolished prisons, trusted the Arab man, and showed goodwill toward every Arab. It was indeed a revolutionary act in the full sense of the word, when you gave the Arab citizen in Libya his freedom of movement, and gave passports back their real value, because in reality there should not be any gates, borders, passports, and obstructions between Arab countries. You have set an example in this respect. This trust you have shown toward the Arab man and the reassurance resulting from this trust will act as a revolutionary mobilization of Arab potentials. What I have just heard—the removal, or rather the dissolution of military units at the borders with Arab countries, with all the Arab countries, [words indistinct]—is indeed a sound move which augurs well and shows farsightedness and loftiness. Sooner or later this will have a response.

As far as we in Tunisia are concerned, there has been a response before this move and after the move. It is not possible for an Arab, especially for Tunisians...[Baccouche changes thought] Tunisians used to cross the borders into Libya to resist the Italians, and Libyans used to cross the border into Tunisia to resist the French. There should remain forces at the borders whose aim is to lay in wait for a brother or to wait for a foreigner to use the borders against a Libyan brother or an Arab brother. We want to bless this.

We also want to recall the meeting after 7 November. The 7th of November is for Tunisia, and I believe for all the Arabs, the beginning of a new era, an era of hard work, struggle, and of inter-Arab solidarity and unity. We used to be impeded by internal and external shackles, but with President Zine El Abidine Bel Ali, we decided to overcome and smash these bonds. We say that after 7 November conditions have come about for building solidarity and unity between us; a solidarity that is not just economic but economic, cultural and political.

It is easy for us, after 7 November, to gain momentum toward close solidarity between our two countries, [words indistinct]. We are prepared to set an example by our cooperation, as a model, in order that our cooperation may be a starting point for others. I believe that your presence among us is because this cooperation is a platform for something more important than economic cooperation; it is a platform for inter-Maghreb and inter-Arab cooperation.

We want to move forward with firm steps, with the reasonableness and calmness of faith, with the warmth of enthusiasm and deep awareness, toward unity. We do not want to make room for any power—there are now people who are jealous, on your side and on our side. We must not make room for any power, internal or external, to take us backward, to make us fall into setbacks. Enough of these setbacks!

We hope that this commission, to which you have given great impetus and whose level you have raised, will not only look into the traditional and well-known issues usually studied by joint commissions. Even if it examines such issues, it should put them in a higher framework, a larger framework. There must be a move forward, better than old moves, in various domains, because our aspirations are now greater. The people in Tunisia, and in Libya too, I believe, expect much from our meeting. Before—and you know this—whenever there was talk in Tunisia about great cooperation with the Arab people in Libya, this used to be damped down. They did not let imagination flourish. However, in reality, we the leaders are now with the people. We have many dreams and a great deal of feeling toward one another and also toward all Arab brothers.

After our meeting, the Tunisian and Libyan peoples must be shocked. They must feel that there are new things in accordance with our new aspirations. We must avoid shocking them. In this respect, I hear the comment, whether from friendly or enemy states, that they will wait and see. The big event they are watching in the world, and especially in the region, is the effect of 7 November. First, the aspect of national reconciliation, and second—and most important—is the relationship between Tunisia and Libya. There are attempts to destroy them, to introduce quarrels into our relations, or to make them appear unrealistic. I must not hide this from you; since 7 November we have been rooting out these attempts. One must be hand in hand with one's brothers and not need to look to others.

We want to be hand in hand, and we are now hand in hand, with our brothers. Even abroad, they are closely watching what is going on in this commission. There used to be an absolute unionist movement, an almost revolutionary one; our movement used to be like this. There used to be also another trend, a trend as if our country had had no historical or religious ties. We used to follow either a routine path where countries count pennies between them, or just unity. But after this meeting, I believe that we have realized the need for us to conciliate between the inevitability of union and the requirements of its embodiment and to make it reality, day after day.

This is what we must account for, bearing in mind the words of the leader and the experience of the past, whether ours in Tunisia or yours here. We must take this into account so that this meeting may not be the third of its kind but the first on the right path. This is—Your Excellency the leader, and your brothers—this is what I wanted to say in the form of thanks, and also to express our appreciation for our brothers in Libya and to you in person. [applause]

Meets al-Humaydi

LD051956 Tripoli JANA in English 1835 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al Tayr [April] 5, JAMAHIRIYA NEWS AGENCY—Major Al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi received at noon today in his office Hedi Baccouche the prime minister of sisterly Tunisia who is on a visit to Great Jamahiriya nowadays heading a Tunisian Arab delegation consisting of members of the Tunisian Government, a number of experts and technicians, to attend the sessions of the third meeting of the Joint Supreme Committee for Libyan Arab-Tunisian Co-operation.

During this meeting, a discussion and a review were made on the big development the Libyan Arab-Tunisian relations are witnessing and the means to back and consolidate them in a way that serves the interests of the one Arab people in both sisterly Tunisia and Great Jamahiriya to arrive at the Arab Maghreb and the Arab nation unity.

The meeting was attended by Mahmoud Mestiri the foreign minister in sisterly Tunisia.

This morning, Major Al-Khawaylidi al-Humaydi also received Abderrazak al-Kefi the minister of transport and tourism of sisterly Tunisia. During this meeting, which was attended by the secretary of the General People's Committee for Communication and Marine Transport, the Libyan Arab-Tunisian relations were discussed and the means to back them and promote them in all fields to serve the interests of the one Arab people in both sisterly Tunisia and Great Jamahirya.

Baccouche Departs 5 Apr

LD060139 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1948 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Brother Hedi Baccouche, prime minister of sisterly Tunisia, and the delegation accompanying him left Tripoli this evening. A big send-off was given to the Tunisian prime minister, who was seen off by the secretary and members of the General People's Committee. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Status of Egypt-Libya Mediation Reviewed

PM051159 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Mar 88 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Egyptian-Libyan Meeting in Khartoum Discussed"]

[Excerpt] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that Sudanese State Council Chairman Ahmad al-Mirghani will visit Egypt within the next few days to brief Egyptian President Husni Mubarak on the results of his talks in Libya with President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi regarding the Sudanese mediation between Egypt and Libya.

Informed sources have said that Al-Mirghani's mediation has resulted in an initial agreement between the two countries to suspend the campaigns exchanged between them via media services, newspapers, and statements by officials. It has also resulted in Libya's willingness to discuss the problem of the rights of Egyptian workers expelled from Libya in 1985 and to reopen the Libyan labor market to Egyptian manpower and companies.

The sources said that Al-Mirghani has offered to host a high-level Egyptian-Libyan meeting in Khartoum to agree on a settlement to outstanding problems, including the issues of border tension, the activities of some Libyan opposition groups in Egypt, the resumption of flights between Cairo and Tripoli, and the entry of Egyptian newspapers into Libya and Libyan newspapers into Egypt. [passage omitted]

Libyan Army Commander Arrives in Khartoum

JN051814 Khartoum SUNA in English 1738 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] Khartoum, Apr. 5, SUNA—Commander-in-chief of the Libyan Armed Forces Col. Abu Bakr Yunis [Jabir] arrived here Tuesday, on a visit to the country during which he will take part in Sudan's celebrations on the occasion of the 3rd anniversary of the glorious April-1985 popular uprising, which toppled the regime of ousted President Numayri.

Col. Abu Bakr Yunis was greeted at Khartoum airport by Premier and Defence Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi; commander-in-chiefof the Armed Forces Gen. Fawzi Ahamd al-Fadil; and high ranking Army officers.

In a press statement upon arrival the Libyan official expressed satisfaction to take part in celebrations of the third anniversary of the April uprising.

The Libyan guest further said he would discuss with government's officials all issues on the Arab and African scene, questions of mutual interest and bilateral relations between the Sudan and Libya besides mutual cooperation.

Replying to a question on the initiative to open borders with Egypt and Egypt's reaction over the Libyan decision to withdraw the Libyan troops from the joint borders with Egypt, the commander-in-chief of the Libyan Armed Forces asserted that the Libyan initiative which was announced by Libyan leader Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi came in response to appeals made by Arab brothers, and particularly the Sudan, to normalize relations between Libya and Egypt.

Col. Yunis pointed out that intensified contacts by Arab countries preceded the announcement of the Libyan initiative.

However, he said Egypt did not respond to Libya's initiative as required.

Concerning conflict in Chad he said it was a conflict between Chadian political organizations and that Libya was not a part of this conflict nor had relations with the fight on the Chadian scene.

Tunisia

Prime Minister Baccouche Returns From Libya

LD060229 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, his excellency the president of the Republic, met Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche tonight immediately upon his return from Tripoli, where he had led the Tunisian delegation to the work of the Tunisian-Libyan higher committee.

Kuwait

Further Reportage on Hijacking of Boeing 747

2 Royal Family Members on Jet

BK0514004 Hong Kong AFP in English 1356 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] Bangkok, April 5 (AFP)—Two members of Kuwait's royal family were among the 97 passengers on a Kuwait Airways Boeing 747 that was hijacked Tuesday to Iran, the airline's office here said.

The two—whose relationship to the emir of Kuwait were not immediately known—were identified on the passenger manifest of Flight KU-422 as Ebtissam Khalid and Anwar Khalid al-Sabah.

Thirty Kuwaitis in all were on the passenger list.

Council of Ministers Meets

LD0521134 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 2051 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] Kuwait, 5 April (KUNA)—The Council of Ministers held an emergency session this evening at the People's Palace under the chairmanship of his highness the heir apparent and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, to discuss developments in the Kuwaiti airliner hijacking incident.

Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashid 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rashid made the following statement:

The Council of Ministers studied in its meeting this evening developments in the events concerning the Kuwaiti airliner hijacking. The plane was on its way to Kuwait from Bangkok at dawn today. The Council was informed about all the contacts that took place between the Iranian authorities and the hijackers for the purpose of freeing the plane and its passengers.

In strengthening the efforts of officials in the Islamic Republic of Iran and at the request of the Iranian authorities, the Council has decided to send a delegation from Kuwait to facilitate the task of the Iranian authorities in releasing the hijacked passengers.

The Council, while affirming what had been said in the statement of the Foreign Ministry this morning, expressed satisfaction with the announcement made by Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi and with what was stated in the message His Excellency Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received from Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

They both affirmed that the Islamic Republic of Iran is anxious to safeguard the innocent passengers.

The Council hopes the Iranian authorities will succeed in their efforts to secure the release of the plane and its passengers.

Papers Condemn Hijacking

LD0605959 Kuwait KUNA in English 0758 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Kuwait, April 6 (KUNA)—Two Kuwaiti newspapers Wednesday roared in unison condemning the hijacking of a Kuwaiti airliner and deplored that the "heinous" act was intended to divert attention from the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

AL-QABAS and AL-WATAN dailies, in front-page editorials, also believed that the hijacking was aimed against Kuwait's peaceful policy and the country's support for major Arab causes.

AL-QABAS said the "criminal" act did not even deserve a denunciation because the perpetrators did not have the faintest shadow of values of principles.

The paper found it especially regrettable that Kuwait should be the target of such terrorist act at a time when the country was preparing to host an Islamic summit intended to clear the way for peace and stability in the region.

It also deplored that the hijacking was designed to overshadow the Palestinian uprising and to hurt the country which helped take the uprising into the world's conscience.

"Those who carried out the operation would be mistaken if they thought, even for a single second, that with this kind of crime they would be able to dissuade Kuwait from championing justice and peace or from adopting the voice of the Palestinian rights," AL-QABAS concluded.

AL-WATAN, meanwhile, said such a "heinous" act as hijacking is always ugliest when committed against a peace-loving country as Kuwait.

The paper said the perpetrators were apparently annoyed by Kuwait's peaceful policy and by the justice that prevails in Kuwait "at a time when justice is facing agenuine crisis in several other countries."

Like AL-QABAS, the paper saw the hijackers as "traitors" who betrayed the Palestinian cause by taking the world's attention away from the heroic resistance to the Israeli occupation in occupied Palestine.

The paper emphatically said the hijackers must be punished "for abhorable assassination of many values and achievements."

The English-language newspaper, the KUWAIT TIMES, meanwhile strongly denounced the hijacking, and hoped, however, that the drama would come to peaceful end Wednesday.

"No objective, political or of any other nature, can justify the violation of the sanctity of the life and safety of utterly innocent and uninvolved people," the paper said in an editorial.

The KUWAIT TIMES said Iran's cooperation to protect the lives of the hijacked aircraft's passengers and crew and Tehran's handling of the crisis is "widely appreciated."

Saudi Arabia

SPA Cites 'Source' on Concern Over Hijacking

LD061030 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0935 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Riyadh, 6 Apr (SPA)—A responsible source has told SPA that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has been following with great concern the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner yesterday and its landing at Mashhad airport in Iran.

The source reiterated the Kingdom's firm stand on acts of terrorism and air piracy. He said: The Kingdom is against these acts which contradict human conduct, principles, and values. The Kingdom also rejects blackmail and the threat of force.

The source said the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is anxious about the safety of the passengers on the plane including the two Saudis among the plane's passengers and that it is watching the situation with great concern.

Yemen Arab Republic

Assembly Extends Salih Mandate by 90 Days

JN042054 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 4 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and General People's Congress secretary general, today received the Constituent People's Assembly decision on extending the duration of the current presidency of the Republic for another 90 days as of 22 May 1988 in accordance with Article 81 of the permanent Constitution.

The Constituent People's Assembly held its ordinary session this morning under Brother 'Abd al-Karim 'Abdallah al-Arashi, vice president and speaker of the Constituent People's Assembly. During this session, the assembly reviewed the report referred to it by the General Elections Committee.

The report emphasized the need to implement Article 81 of the Permanent Constitution in view of the fact that the Assembly which acts as the higher committee for elections has been unable to secure a meeting of the elected Consultative Council on the constitutional date for presidential elections for the coming constitutional term. The presidential election will take place in the Consultative Council. [as heard] [passage omitted]

Government Condemns Hijack of Kuwaiti Plane

JN061031 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0950 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Apr (INA)—Iraq has strongly condemned the hijacking of a Kuwaiti passenger plane and its forced landing at an Iranian airport by a number of agents of the Iranian regime.

In a statement today, an Iraqi Foreign Ministry spokesman said the agents of the Iranian regime have carried out more than one hijacking operation and made arrangements with the Iranian authorities in order to serve the schemes of the aggressive Iranian regime.

The spokesman described the hijacking as a fabricated scenario, affirming that it cannot cover this regime's collusion with the clique of hijackers. The Iraqi Foreign Ministry also urged the international community to condemn this crime, hold the Iranian regime responsible, and condemn this regime's policies based on terrorism and blackmail. The spokesman stressed Iraq's solidarity with its brothers in Kuwait.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Communique No 3,115

JN051218 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1158 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Communique No 3,115 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 5 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With God's help and the resolve of zealous men, the following missile strikes have been carried out:

1. At 1545 [1145 GMT] today, the 61st missile strike was carried out against the city of Tehran using Al-Husayn missiles.

2. At the same time, the 62d missile strike was carried out against the city of Tehran using Al-Husayn missiles.

Blessed be your endeavors, you, O proud men of the military industries. Glory and pride belong to you, O you combatants of the Al-Husayn missile force. God be praised for the victory He granted us; He is the best support.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 5 April 1988

Iranian Missile Hits Baghdad

JN051738 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1727 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 5 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. At 2055 [1655 GMT] today, the tyrannical Iranian rulers fired one of their missiles on Baghdad. The missile landed on a residential quarter, martyring and wounding a number of civilians, including women, elderly people, and children. The missile attack also demolished and caused damage to a number of houses, commerical stores, and other civilian property. May paradise be the final abode of our martyrs and may swift recovery be the lot of our wounded, God willing.

[Dated] 5 April 1988

Communique No 3,116

JN051212 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1610 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Communique No 3,116 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 5 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our Armed Forces continued to carry out their activities last night and today. The following is a roundup of these activities:

1. The aircraft of our Air Force flew 65 combat missions against the enemy troops, inflicting further losses on the enemy. Moreover, they achieved the following:

a. At 0928 [0528 GMT] today, our aircraft raided the city of Hamadan.

b. At 1600 today, our hawks dealt a strike to the city of Dezful.

c. At 1918 yesterday, our aircraft dealt a strike to the city of Dezful.

Having carried out their tasks, our hawks returned safely to base. God be praised.

2. Our helicopter gunships, which are affiliated to the Army Helicopter Gunship Force, continued to carry out their tasks against enemy troops today, inflicting significant losses on the enemy. They flew 117 combat sorties. Having flown these combat sorties, our helicopter gunships returned safely to base. God be praised.

3. The following losses were inflicted on the enemy in the I Army Corps northern sector:

—24 scoundrels killed.

—10 vehicles burned and destroyed, including 4 vehicles carrying personnel.

—One tank burned and destroyed.

—11 ammunition dumps blown up.

—Two 107-mm tubular rocket launchers destroyed.

—Five infantry positions and four shovels [preceding word in English] destroyed.

Our heavy artillery also managed to inflict the following losses on the enemy in the same sector:

—Two tanks destroyed.

—Groups of enemy personnel killed.

—One shovel and one vehicle burned.

—One 120-mm mortar destroyed.

4. Two scoundrels were killed in the I Special Army Corps sector—the Allahu Akbar Forces. Seven positions of various types were destroyed and five enemy personnel were killed in the II Army Corps central sector.

5. Two ammunition dumps were blown up and one gun emplacement and two infantry positions were destroyed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

6. One 106-mm gun, one medium machine gun, and one boat were destroyed and one scoundrel was killed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris. In addition, one antiaircraft machine gun was destroyed and one enemy soldier was killed in the VII Army Corps sector.

7. The criminal Iranian regime used long-range artillery to shell residential quarters in the cities of Basra, Al-Zubayr, Darband-i Khan, and Umm Qasr. The shelling martyred and wounded a number of civilians. It demolished or damaged a number of houses and an elementary school. Furthermore, this shelling caused further damage to civilian property. May God's paradise be the final abode of our martyrs and may swift recovery be the lot of our wounded, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 5 April 1988

'Very Large Maritime Target' Hit

JN060519 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0508 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 6 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In implementation of the will of our great people to cut off oil revenues from the criminal Iranian regime, our planes launched a raid on a very large maritime target near the Sheykh Sho'eyb Island [Lavan Island] last night. They scored an accurate and effective hit and returned safely to their bases. God be praised.

[Dated] 6 April 1988

Communique No 3,117

JN060639 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0606 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Communique No 3,117 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 6 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With God's help, the following missile strikes were carried out against the capital of charlatanism and buffoonery:

1. At 0929 [0529 GMT] today, the 63d missile strike with Al-Husayn missiles was carried out against the city of Tehran.

2. At the same time, the 64th missile strike was carried out against the city of Tehran with Al-Husayn missiles.

3. At the same time, the 65th missile strike was carried out against the city of Tehran with Al-Husayn missiles.

4. At 0929 today, the Al-Husayn missile force dealt the 66th strike to the city of Tehran with Al-Husayn missiles.

Blessed be your great efforts and good endeavors O great men of the military industry and the heroic Al-Husayn missile force fighters.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 6 April 1988

Communique No 3,118

JN060922 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0850 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Communique No 3,118 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 6 April]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassaionate. The Abu Musa School and our beloved children there, as well as the teaching staff, were the target, as was Bilat al-Shuhada', of the grudge of the Iranian rulers, a clique of killers and criminals, who directed their grudge, as we said, against children, education, culture, educational centers, and our people's civilization. They fired one of their missiles at this school, which is located at Umm Qasr Port, in order to shed the blood of children and teachers and mix it with their books and the ink of learning. [passage omitted]

O, our dear citizens, at 1030 [0630 GMT] yesterday the Iranian regime fired its field missiles at this school. As a result of this criminal action, three of our beloved children were martyred. Their souls complained to God regarding the meanness of Khomeyni and his followers. As a result of this incident, 50 citizens, including 41 students, 2 female teachers, and 7 civilians, were wounded.

While announcing this crime, we appeal to the world public—governments and peoples—to condemn these cowardly practices and to use every means to stop these acts which are alien to this age and its values and alien to man and his ideals. They are even worse than the law of the jungle and the criminal practices during the darkest ages.

For our part, as our people have known us, the road to retaliation is open for us and Iraqi retaliation does not err. Iraqi retaliation is sweeping and powerful.

Let paradise be the abode of our children. A quick recovery to the wounded. The Khomeyniites should be disgraced for assassinating youth and destroying schools. We are proud that we are defending youth, building scientific edifices, and glorifying the life of man. What a difference between the regime of charlatans and our revolution! This vast difference is the crux of the conflict and one of its factors. We trust that victory will inevitably be our lot.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 6 April 1988

Further on Visit by U.S. Secretary of State

Peres Lists 4 'Noes'

TA051343 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres today listed four noes: no to negotiations with the PLO, no to a Palestinian state, no to a foreign army in the territories, and no to the dismantling of the Jewish settlements. Mr Peres added that the IDF can defend the peace just as it defended the people of Israel during times of war.

Our correspondent 'Adi Malul reports that Minister Peres was speaking at 'En Hemed at the Passover festival of the Kurdish sect from Iran.

Peres on U.S., USSR

TA051225 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 5 Apr 88 pp 1,2

[Report by Ari'ela Re'uveni]

[Text] The Soviet Union will be ready to resume diplomatic relations with Israel on the day the international conference opens. This information was released yesterday by Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, in a conversation with journalists in Haifa. Peres' remarks drew on information he had received from George Shultz and other sources, as well as on Mikhail Gorbachev's statement made to the Italian Communist Party secretary general several days ago.

As Haifa Mayor Gur'el's guest, Peres took part in a reception in his honor. He said that he has never been more hopeful about or felt closer to a chance for negotiations, although the obstacles have not been removed yet. He welcomed Shultz' three "noes:" no to a Palestinian state, no to negotiations with the PLO, no to a return to the 1967 borders.

"In my talks with Secretary Shultz, I was deeply impressed by his concern for Israel's security," Peres said, adding that the meeting with the U.S. secretary of state was devoted mainly to possible timetables and to establishing a connection between the interim and the permanent settlements, for "no divergence between the two must arise. We all wish to arrive at direct negotiations as soon as possible; there is no argument about that. I also hope that there is no argument over our preference to conduct negotiations with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, rather than an exclusively Palestinian one."

Peres said that under the Cabinet's present structure, it is virtually impossible to give Shultz a negative reply. He said that "formally, it is impossible for Shamir to say 'no,' just as it is impossible for me to say 'yes.' Therefore, I do not foresee a negative answer on Israel's part." Peres emphasized that it is essential, in the remaining 2 or 3 months, to apply our efforts to turning the peace process into a political reality, and to stop dealing with trivial issues. "Just now, time is the most precious article at our command. We can arrive at direct negotiations within several weeks, and I believe that negotiations are the first stage on the way to peace itself. The very fact that negotiations are being conducted will improve the overall political climate," said Peres. As for the possibility of early elections, Peres said that he is not ready to address the matter as long as a peace process is in the offing.

Asked whether a dialogue between him and the prime minister is taking place, parallel to their contacts with international elements, Peres said: "I am always willing to do this. I think it is the right way, and when I was prime minister, I followed this principle with regard to the Lebanon war, the Tabah dispute, and to economic issues. I believe in dialogue, but the only dialogue between us has been in the framework of Cabinet sessions."

Sharon Urges Clear Positions

TA051853 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Report on remarks by Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon at a seminar in Jerusalem's Jewish Quarter organized by the Herut Central Committee's Jerusalem Affairs Committee; date not specified—recorded]

[Text] [Rina Matzli'ah] Crowds of people thronged the streets and courtyards of the Jewish Quarter in Jerusalem as part of the art and music week in the quarter. The members of the Herut Central Committee's Jerusalem Affairs Committee were there. They met in the Hakhorava synagogue for a seminar on Jerusalem. The main speaker, Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon, criticized what is happening in Israel with regard to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' visit. He said things should be said unequivocally and clearly.

[Sharon] What is all this running around taking place today? Efforts are being made all the time to get the other side to say no first. What importance does this have? We should say first of all what we do agree to. This should be said now.

[Matzli'ah] Minister Sharon said yes to: The Jordan River as Israel's security border; Israel's continued control of the Golan Heights in any arrangement that might take place; expansion of Jewish settlement in Jerusalem, including the Muslim quarter; and the return of Israeli control to all parts of the city.

[Sharon] For 20 years Jerusalem has been in our hands, but in fact, it is not in our hands. Not all of Jerusalem is in our hands. You have only to walk down a few alleyways from here and see that we are in another Jerusalem. This is something that should not have happened and must not happen. Once there was a saying and declaration which stirred each Jew's heart. Now the Temple Mount is in our hands, but Jews cannot enter the

Temple Mount freely. This in fact symbolizes our condition in Jerusalem. To my regret, our condition in Jerusalem symbolizes to a great extent our situation in other parts of Eretz Yisra'el as well.

[Matzli'ah] The minister also criticized the fact that things are not being said firmly and with the necessary determination even in Herut.

Further on Sharon Remarks

TA051545 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1430 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon today attacked heads of the defense establishment for their treatment of the riots in the territories. In any other country, such riots would have ended within a day. It is only with us that it lasts for months, Sharon told members of the Herut Central Committee's Jerusalem Committee.

Our correspondent Natan Gutman reports that Minister Sharon also said that only irresponsible people can refer to political arrangements even before order is restored. Such talk inflames the riots, Sharon said.

Shamir Attitude Unchanged

TA052037 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir phoned the Likud ministers and promised them that there is no change in his attitude toward the Shultz initiative. This has been learned by our correspondent Shlomo Raz. Likud ministers believe, however, that if progress is made in issues of content, more flexibility could be evinced in the issues of procedure regarding the Shultz initiative.

Meeting With Shamir Ends

TA060817 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Secretary of State George Shultz held a wrap-up session with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in Jerusalem this morning. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that part of the meeting was held tete-a-tete. Mr Shultz did not hand Mr Shamir any document or draft invitation whatsoever. It was noted that he will not return to Israel during his current round of talks, but may send one of his aides to report on his upcoming talks in Cairo, Riyadh, and Amman.

Upon emerging from their meeting, the prime minister said that Secretary Shultz will continue to search for paths to peace in the region, and Israel hopes he will succeed. For his part, Shultz summed up the situation by saying: When you are down in the trenches you certainly are aware of how hard it is, but that does not lessen in any way the importance of continuing the effort. We will continue our efforts for peace, Shultz emphasized.

Secretary Shultz is currently conferring with Ministers Peres and Weizman at the Foreign Ministry.

Shultz Ends Visit

TA060926 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] George Shultz has ended his working sessions in Israel and will take off for Cairo in about an hour. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that at the end of his meeting with the secretary of state, Mr Peres said that he believes most people in Israel are willing to return territories in exchange for peace. We will not return all the territories, he stressed, because we need security. No one can take Jordan's place in the negotiations, because all the residents of the territories are Jordanian citizens, Peres noted. Shultz described himself as stubborn, and said he would continue his efforts.

Peres' Airport Remarks

TA061150 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Excerpts] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz has left Israel for Cairo. In a departure statement at Ben-Gurion Airport, he urged all parties concerned to say yes to the American initiative. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres paid tribute to Shultz' determination, and pointed out that it was the first time an American secretary of state had been able to persist with the Middle East initiative for so long without being rebuffed by the parties involved. There were difficulties, but so far no one had said no.

[Begin Peres recording] As far as I am concerned, I do believe that many of our people—I think most of our people—are ready to give back territories so as to have peace, although we shall not give back all the territories, because we need security.

I am convinced today, as yesterday, as tomorrow, that nobody can replace Jordan and the Jordanian leaders in leading these negotiations for the future of both the Jordanian-Israeli relations and the Palestinian problem. Let's not forget that all the Palestinians who reside on the West Bank are Jordanian citizens, and Jordan is their only sole government. Nobody can take away from Jordan that responsibility, as none of the Palestinians is ready to sacrifice his passport.

I do believe that all of us have to make a major effort to keep the initiative of George Shultz alive and ongoing. The fact that we discovered difficulties should not surprise anybody. May I suggest we shall have more difficulties in the future. [laughter] I am convinced that none of us has a better alternative but to continue these negotiations. All other alternatives are so bleak and so worrying that this remains the only hope in town. [end recording]

Jerusalem Arabic Comment

JN051626 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1435 GMT 5 Apr 88

["Observation" by 'Ezra Shirazi]

[Text] In light of the statements that accompanied George Shultz' talks in Israel, and with Shultz' departure to Amman, it may be said that there are indications that the ball is now in the Jordanian court. The prevalent impression now is that with the start of Shultz' tour of the region, the waiting game is drawing to a close. By the waiting game we mean that this side is waiting for the other side's answer before presenting its own answer to the peace plan which Shultz brought to this region 6 weeks ago.

This means two things: a. that the two concerned parties will have to make a decision and give clear answers, and b. that the real intentions of these sides are going to be put to the test.

The impression one gets from the declared stands of these concerned parties is that each of them is careful not to appear to have caused Shultz' failure in his peace mission. Each one of them is careful not to bear the responsibility of aborting or undermining the present and ready opportunity for peace. However, the important question is whether all the parties are working sincerely to promote the new peace project. To say that the ball is now in the Jordanian court, or in the Arab court in general, is a tentatively sound evaluation. However, in practical terms, the peace ball will eventually remain in the courts of both sides in the Arab-Israeli dispute.

The big question is: Will the rulers of our region sincerely cooperate among themselves and with the U.S. secretary of state? Will they demonstrate the necessary skill and wisdom in directing the ball at the goal of peace which is cherished by the peoples of the entire region?

Rabin on Saudi Missiles, Other Issues

TA012050 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 1 Apr 88 pp 1, 6

[Report on interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Yesha'yahu Ben-Porat; date and place not given]

[Text] "Israel not only has the deterrent power to face down the missiles held by Syria, Iraq, and now also Saudi Arabia, and the temptation to attack our populated areas; we also have the ability to attack their populated areas to a degree that outstrips theirs many times over," Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin stated in an interview with YEDI'OT AHARONOT on the occasion of the Passover holiday.

The defense minister added: "We made progress on the issue of intercepting missiles in the framework of the Star Wars agreement with the United States. Effective interception systems against surface-to-surface missiles with a range of 1,000 km do not yet exist, but we are in the process of staging a show that will demonstrate our ability. Some 80 percent of the development, which will yet take some time, will be financed by the United States in excess of its regular aid."

Following are the defense minister's remarks on issues currently on the agenda:

—Land Day in the Arab sector: "The terrorist organizations and radical elements among Israel's Arabs did not attain the goal they set out to achieve that day: to repeat the events of what they called "Peace Day" last December. There were pamphlets and calls to strike and riot broadcast by Jibril's terrorist radio, by 'Arafat's radio in Baghdad, and even by Radio Monte Carlo. The strong standing of the Israeli Arab local authorities averted the crossing of red lines of violence. The presence of the police also played a very important role."

—Land Day in the territories: "Most of the incidents in Judaea and Samaria were the consequence of action initiated by us to quell violent events. The result is serious from the point of view of the large number of casualties. In big cities like Nabulus, Janin, Ramallah, Bethlehem, and Hebron there were hardly any incidents. The serious incidents occurred in the small villages."

—The closure of the territories: "The 3-day closure made things easier for Israel's Arabs because it brought about isolation. It illustrated our determination to take a firm hand and it calmed the situation in general. We instituted traffic controls in the districts and decided that even reporting to work is a right granted to the inhabitants of the territories that can be taken back. This measure will be selectively enforced against rioters in the future. We are thinking about preventing them from reporting to work."

—Precluding freedom of the press: "We will use all the means, including those that have been recently enforced, in the framework of the comprehensive policy aimed at restoring calm and upholding the internal government system. These means include a military presence, a punitive system, arrests, interrogations, administrative measures, selective economic pressures, and occasional measures exceeding the above. As for the media, the policy is not to prevent coverage on a permanent basis. At the same time, however, the media cannot have absolute license or be allowed to get anywhere and do as they please. I realize the role of the media, but we also have an obligation to attain the objectives I mentioned. We will look for the right balance between freedom and absolute license. Our image as a democratic state is definitely part of my considerations. I respect the right of the people to know, both in Israel and worldwide."

The chances of Shultz' upcoming shuttle trip: "The dispute in the government is known. I do not know what Shultz is bringing along or whether he will produce any new elements. I take a negative view of his meeting with the two Palestinian professors. In 1975, when I was prime minister, we signed a memorandum with the United States in which the latter pledged to abstain from any contacts with the PLO. The meeting is a deviation from that agreement. As for his visit, a distinction must be made between restoring calm in the territories and Shultz' initiative. With or without an initiative, we must restore calm. Regardless of all this, I consider Shultz' the only initiative in existence conducive to direct negotiations between the sides. I would have favored it even had it been proposed last October, before the events in the territories, and I still favor it."

—The threat of an all-out war: "The best way is to follow all the developments of this threat, to keep up our alertness and preparedness so that we may deter, not be taken by surprise, and also win. Our situation today is still quite comfortable. Peace with Egypt continues, Iraq is still busy in its war with Iran, and this leaves Syria as the only potential enemy. Admittedly, thought should be given to the fact that the Iran-Iraq war would seem to have legitimized two elements that had not yet been used in the Middle East: the indiscriminate firing of surface-to-surface missiles at large populations, and the use of chemical weapons.

"As things stand today, the largest threat posed to Israel comes from Syria, and this has been a long-standing threat. Syria has Scud-B missiles with 1-ton warheads, whereas the Iraqi missile carries a warhead of only 200 to 300 kg. The Syrian missile 'covers' Israel all the way down to Beersheba. Syria also has more accurate SS-21 missiles and Frog missiles which it has used as far back as the Yom Kippur War. We have had the ability to counter the latter for a long time, and we are very well prepared."

—The chemical weapons in the possession of the Arabs: "We are prepared. We have personal defense equipment for the entire population. It is not being distributed so as to maintain its quality and level of performance, but we have made all the arrangements for whenever it becomes necessary."

—The Saudi-Chinese missile deal: "We were taken by surprise, but what I consider more serious is that the Americans were taken by surprise. We do not have satellites and we do not have people in Saudi Arabia. The Americans have satellites and they have people in Saudi Arabia, and yet they were surprised. What is clear is that an infrastructure for the absorption of the Chinese missiles is being built in Saudi Arabia."

PRC Attitude Toward Trade Deals 'More Positive'

TA040925 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 4 Apr 88 p A5

[Report by David Lipkin]

[Text] The PRC authorities have recently changed their attitude toward deals with Israel. As a result, they no longer demonstrate the same degree of inflexibility and the negative attitude shown in the past, but are prepared to take a more positive view of various deals involving the purchase of industrial and agricultural technology and know-how in the sphere of hotel administration.

The director general of one of the larger conglomerates has noted that the Chinese have recently been sending positive signals to Israel regarding the implementation of deals with Israeli companies. He notes a real thaw in trade relations, and says that many obstacles that had blocked previous deals have now been removed. Nevertheless, the Chinese are continuing to make the implementation of deals conditional upon the maintenance of supreme secrecy, noting that any digression from this condition would involve the cancellation of previously agreed upon transactions.

The Israeli representation in Hong Kong has a commercial attache's office, whose job is to handle the promotion of trade with the PRC with the help of PRC elements in Hong Kong.

The Eisenberg Group is the spearhead of Israeli exports to the PRC. Businessman Sha'ul Eisenberg works through his network of offices in the PRC to oversee a large share of the deals being struck between the PRC and Israeli elements. The Koor Concern and businessman Avi Duda'i also handle business deals with the PRC.

Israel's main exports to the PRC are irrigation systems, chemicals, fertilizers, agricultural technology, technology for the manufacture of phosphates for plants that are currently being built in the PRC, and recently also hotel administration know-how.

The Chinese have recently expressed readiness to sell coal to Israel. They do not, however, want this to be a direct deal, but one carried out through a third party. The Israeli coal company, on the other hand, insists that this be a direct deal. The Industry and Trade Ministry has recently granted licenses to import textiles, ceramics, and porcelain from the PRC, but this was made contingent upon the execution of parallel deals for the export of goods to the PRC.

The deals with the PRC are not carried out directly. Most of them are executed through Hong Kong. In others, the Netherlands is used as the go-between, because the Chinese purchasers who buy goods for the PRC are there.

Defense Minister Comments on West Bank Policy

AU051249 Rome ANSA in English 1228 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] (ANSA) Rome, April 5—The Palestinian population of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, territories occupied by Israel since 1967, will gain nothing by violence

except further political and economic problems, according to Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who was interviewed for the Tuesday edition of the Rome daily LA REPUBBLICA.

Commenting on the unrest in the occupied territories where at least 130 Palestinians, most of them stone-throwing youths, have been killed by Israeli troops since the troubles began December 9 last year, Rabin said: "The Palestinian population does not like our presence and wants us to go away. But it will not be by using violence that they will see us out, if we ever leave at all."

"We say to them quite clearly: You want a solution? All right, let's sit down around the negotiating table. You want violence? Then we will stamp it out. Palestinians do not like being beaten? So we will shoot at them in full respect for the law," the defence minister said, explaining the decision to lay aside the "beatings policy" which earned them condemnation from all over the world in favour of more direct methods.

"Israeli soldiers", Rabin told LA REPUBBLICA, "are allowed to shoot whenever their life is in danger or, if they are patrolling a street, they can shoot to defend the lives of the people on it."

The defence minister stressed, however, that shooting was not the only way in which the Israeli authorities were attempting to deal with the Palestinian problem. "There are also arrests, trials, and administrative detention for those people who take direct part in the violence and for those who participate indirectly, by encouragement or organisation".

"We also use administrative and economic measures," Rabin went on. "We mean to spread out these measures in order not only to crush the violence but also to be certain that we can reestablish peace. It will take some time".

Turning to possible political solutions to the Palestinian situation, Rabin said "there is a way: it is a peace treaty with Jordan, a treaty which would cover a solution to the Palestinian problem and would establish the permanent status of the territories which at the present time are administered by Israel."

Rabin told the Rome daily that he was not at all opposed to compromises on the territory question and said he was in favour of responding favourably to the United States' peace proposal which is at present being discussed by Israeli authorities and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, who is (?making) his second tour of (?the Middle East) within the space of a month.

But, he went on "I think it is essential that the Palestinians and the Arabs, and the entire world be shown that these people will achieve nothing with violence".

The possibility of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) being able to take part in any peace negotiations (?was) completely ruled out by Rabin, who said that "I am thinking of a delegation made up of Jordanians and Palestinians, which includes Palestinians resident in the territories. But there would be no talk of a third Palestinian state being created between Israel and Jordan".

"I am against a withdrawal behind the 1967 lines", said Rabin. "However, I approve the principle of exchanging territories for peace. The principle is all right, but not for [word indistinct] the territories".

Rabin wound up by saying that the Israeli Parliament was divided over Shultz' latest peace plan, but his own Labour Party was prepared to accept it in principle.

IDF Foils 2d Infiltration Attempt in North

TA051502 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1430 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] Another infiltration attempt was foiled last night by an IDF force on the border of the security zone. Menahem Horowitz, our correspondent in the north, reports that the force fired at suspicious figures. The IDF found two kalashnikov rifles, an RPG launcher, and blood spots showing that the terrorists had casualties. The PLO command also announced that several members of the organization were wounded by IDF fire. The terrorists managed to escape from the security zone area.

'Terrorist' Captured 5 Apr

TA052108 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] In the clash this morning with a terror squad near Kefar Yuval one terrorist was caught. This is reported by the IDF spokesman. Two terrorists were killed and four IDF soldiers were wounded in this clash.

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

Deliberate Food Poisoning Denied

TA050550 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] In the territories, 35 people were hospitalized yesterday for food poisoning. Most were released by this morning, but two children are still at Tulkarm Hospital. The food poisoning was caused by a drink prepared under poor sanitary conditions. A spokesman for the Civil Administration has denied local rumors that the poisoning was intentional.

IDF Seals Gaza Alley

TA050742 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] Last night the security forces sealed an alley in Gaza's Sabra neighborhood from which an IDF soldier's assailants emerged last Saturday. In another Gaza neighborhood, the security forces sealed a room in the house of a man who had participated in throwing stones and Molotov cocktails at IDF soldiers. Our correspondent Arye Gus has learned from official sources that despite the general strike in the territories, the majority of Gaza laborers left for work this morning.

Gaza Resident Injured

TA051047 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1030 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] A 16-year-old resident of the village of Bani Suhaylah, neighboring on Khan Yunus, sustained an eye injury from a rubber bullet an IDF soldier shot while dispersing a local riot. The injured youth was moved to a Gaza hospital, and later transferred to Ashqelon. This was reported by our correspondent 'Ezra Yanuv.

7 Arrested Near Haifa

TA051150 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] The police have arrested seven residents of the territories during a raid at the Israeli Arab village of Jisr al-Zarqa near Haifa. The police believe that the suspects are responsible for inciting disturbances in the village. Seven residents of the village were arrested earlier on suspicion of throwing stones at cars along the coastal road.

Al-Yamun Curfew, Detentions

TA051356 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] Early this morning a curfew was imposed on the village of Al-Yamun in the Janin district in order to carry out detentions. The terrorist who murdered the reserve soldier at the Megiddo junction several months ago came from this village. The IDF soldiers demolished three houses belonging to four people suspected of organizing violent disturbances, blocking the roads of the village, organizing and inciting the villagers to throw Molotov cocktails, and other acts of incitement. The curfew was lifted a short time ago and now the place is under a blockade.

Communists Distribute Leaflets

TA050940 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 5 Apr 88 p 2

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Excerpts] The Hebrew-language leaflets distributed in the West Bank, which call on IDF soldiers to desert, were apparently authored by Communist Party activists in the territories, security sources said yesterday.

Copies of the leaflets were found yesterday in Tulkarm after they were distributed earlier in Nabulus.

The sources said the language and style of the leaflets indicated that they were written by Communist activists. [passage omitted]

A leaflet in Arabic providing lists of Palestinian-made "national products" to be bought instead of Israeli goods has also been distributed in Babulus. The leaflet is signed with the letters "TA," which could be the initials of a Communist group.

The Arabic leaflet gives no brandnames, but lists types of industrial and agricultural products produced by Palestinians, as well as the categories of local workmen, such as metalworkers and carpenters, whom Palestinians are urged to employ.

The leaflet says that expansion of local production will mean expansion of local employment opportunities for Palestinians and their withdrawal from Israeli factories and farms. It ends with a call to boycott "Zionist goods," and the slogan: "Toward an Independent National Economy."

Dayr al-Balah Car Burned

TA051530 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] An Israeli Peugeot car belonging to a couple from Qiryat Arba' was burned today in the Dayr al-Balah Refugee Camp. The driver of the car came to look for his friend, who is doing reserve duty. He arrived at the refugee camp by mistake. Local youths congregated around the car and started stoning it. The couple escaped while firing shots into the air, and found refuge in an Army post. When they returned to the scene with soldiers, they saw that their car was burned. This is reported by our correspondent 'Ezra Yanuv.

'Partial' Jerusalem Strike

TA051540 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1430 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] There was a partial commercial strike in East Jerusalem today. Shops and workshops which were closed during the past 3 months were opened. There was a relatively high number of Israelis and tourists in the Old City.

Shlomi Stein, our correspondent for police affairs, reports that two incidents occurred during the day: the blocking of a road in Bayt Hanina and the burning of a trash container in East Jerusalem's central bus station.

Gaza Factory Burns

TA051624 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] A biscuit factory was burned by arsonists in Jabalyah, north of Gaza. The owners of the factory, from the Al-Tayib family from Gaza, did not complain to the police about the act. Gaza Strip criminals have recently been operating without any obstacles because of the mass resignation of the local policemen.

Burial Report 'Fabrication'

TA051628 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 5 Apr 88 p 1

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] Arab sources reported yesterday that a youngster from Ramallah who had been buried under a pile of stones by Israeli soldiers was later rescued by Arab women. According to this report, the youngster's name is Anwar Sharawani. The soldiers picked him and three other youths to remove a stone barrier near the settlement of Pesagot. They later beat him up with their rifles; when he fainted, they buried him under a pile of stones. Women who witnessed the incident started screaming, and rushed to rescue the young man. Our correspondent points out that according to the original report, the man had been taken to Al-Maqasid Hospital, but the hospital has not heard about such a case. It was reported from the IDF spokesman's office that the IDF knows nothing about the incident and has not received any complaint to this effect. In view of insufficient details, the IDF regards the report as a fabrication.

IDF Denies Hunger Strike

TA051700 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Apr 88 pp 1, 8

[Report by Ori Nir and Shlomo Shamir]

[Excerpts] Following a visit to Ansar-3, the IDF's new detention camp at Qezi'ot, a delegation of the Ramallah-based human rights organization "Law in the Service of Man" reported that detainees have started a hunger strike to protest rough imprisonment conditions.

Members of the delegation said the detention camp at Qezi'ot is divided into four sections: two are designed for administrative detainees (one for detainees from the West Bank and another for those from Gaza), and two are designed for regular detainees (one section for detainees from the West Bank and another for those from the Gaza Strip). [passage omitted]

One member of the delegation was Marvin Frankel, a retired federal judge from New York. He spoke in the prison's office with Raji Surani, a Palestinian lawyer and political activist in the Gaza Strip who was detained last month. Surani told Frankel that despite the desert heat there is no water supply throughout the day and water is distributed sparsely at regular times. Sewers are open, the level of nutrition is low, detainees live in tents, one open shower serves 125 detainees, family visits are not allowed, and detainees are not permitted to meet their lawyers. Some detainees began a hunger strike last week demanding improved conditions. Relatives and lawyers have not been permitted to visit the detainees. [passage omitted]

Reacting to this report, IDF sources said yesterday that detainees in the Qezi'ot detention camp are not staging a hunger strike and categorically denied claims about a water shortage. According to official data released by the IDF last week, hundreds are detained in Qezi'ot.

Administrative Detainees Freed

TA051858 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] Two residents of the Israeli Arab town of Umm al-Fahm have been released after 6 months of administrative detention. They were put under administrative detention on charges of incitement and identifying with an organization hostile to the state. The police had attempted to extend their detention, which a magistrate's court had approved but was later overruled by the Haifa District Court.

Bus Passenger Injured

TA052113 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] A Jewish bus passenger was wounded in the head by a stone when the bus passed through Tulkarm. The wounded man was treated on the spot. In the Jabalyah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, an Arab youth was very slightly wounded this evening from shots fired by an IDF officer. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that a patrol which passed by was stoned. The commander of the patrol fired toward the stonethrowers with a small caliber weapon and wounded the youth. He was treated by a local doctor.

Shultz Meets With King, Leaves for Syria
JN051448 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] Amman, 5 Apr (PETRA)—His Majesty King Husayn received at Al-Nadwah Palace at noon today U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, who is on a visit to Jordan within a new regional tour. Shultz presented during the meeting the details of his initiative and the stands of the concerned parties on this initiative.

His Majesty King Husayn reiterated the constants of the Jordanian stand on the elements and the requirements of a comprehensive peaceful settlement through an international peace conference in the Middle East.

The talks were held in an atmosphere of frankness and full clarity.

The meeting was attended by the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Court, the court minister, the commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, and the foreign minister.

It was attended on the U.S. side by Richard Murphy, assistant secretary of state for Middle East affairs, and the U.S. ambassador in Amman.

Shultz left Amman for Syria this afternoon. He was seen off at the airport by Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri, a number of officials, and the U.S. ambassador in Amman.

Publication of Shultz Interview Banned
JN060552 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0505 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz spent the night in Israel. Today he will visit Cairo and then return to Amman before he leaves for Riyadh tomorrow. Shultz' return to Amman today responds to several requirements, headed by two:

The first is that during yesterday's lengthy talks with Shultz, King Husayn presented a number of questions to which he hopes to receive answers upon Shultz' return to Amman today.

The second is an incident which might have consequences on the continuation of U.S.-Jordanian talks. The Jordanian authorities have prevented Amman television from broadcasting an interview with the U.S. secretary of state conducted by the chief editors of the Jordanian newspapers. The text of this interview will also not be published by Jordanian newspapers today as was expected.

The Jordanian authorities did not explain their decision, but it was learned that the U.S. secretary of state said things in the interview which were considered provocative. He said, for instance, that the establishment of a Palestinian state in the occupied territories is meaningless because such a state cannot live economically.

In the same interview, Shultz reiterated his rejection of PLO participation in negotiations and stressed that the United States does not intend to exert any pressure on Israel to make concessions. He added that the United States objects to the repartitioning of Jerusalem as was the case before 1967.

Shultz Remarks To Press 'Heighten Scepticism'
JN060702 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 6 Apr 88 p 4

[Editorial: "Hard to Swallow"]

[Text] United States Secretary of State George Shultz's remarks to the press here yesterday simply heighten the scepticism that most people in the Arab world already felt about the latest American initiative. The United States is correct to try and mediate in a process that would lead to negotiations which would address the fundamental issues in the Arab-Israeli dispute.

We and many others in the Arab world are pleased to see the United States attempt to re-engage in the diplomatic process. But we are surprised—well, maybe we're not really surprised, after all these years, but we're amazed—that the American approach should still be distorted by such an imbalance in favour of Israel and against the Palestinians.

Mr Shultz's forthright declaration in Israel and again in Amman that he is against a Palestinian state, against a return to the 1967 borders, and against the participation of the PLO, suggests to us that he approaches the peace-making task with a rather awesome handicap. For on key issues of substance—such as recognition of Israel, the inclusion of the PLO, or the national rights of the Palestinians—the Shultz approach is too partial to Israeli concerns.

The philosophical basis of his approach is that Israel's right to exist in secure and recognised borders is the paramount principle of the peace-making process and that once the Arabs have accepted this the negotiating process may proceed. We feel this is unfair and unworkable. The problem in Palestine is one of assuring the national rights and the physical security of two peoples—Palestinians and Israelis—and a credible peace-making approach must be based on the principle of mutual and simultaneous national rights being assured for both these peoples.

Mr Shultz's claim that his approach is fair and balanced is hard to swallow. Yet, all sides persist in talking to him because both Arabs and Israelis recognise the need for justice and peace in the Middle East. He should not confuse a desire for peace with a willingness to acquiesce in distorted proposals which reflect a greater sensitivity

to Israeli than to Arab concerns. Let us hope that further talks with all the concerned parties will generate the kind of balance that is needed to launch a genuine peace process.

'Disappointment' Voiced With Shultz Statements

JN061032 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
6 Apr 88 p 1

[Editorial: "United States Retreats From Old Stands"]

[Text] In his statements since his arrival in Israel, George Shultz has reaffirmed that the United States, which has given every support to the Israeli entity and is giving it every support now, will continue to give such support in the future.

The U.S. secretary has made it a point not to link his announcement with any conditions, such as hinting at the possibility of suspending this support if the Israeli entity insists on continuing its aggression, or the possibility of stopping this aid if the Israeli entity continues its expansion, or the possibility of stopping this support if the Israeli entity does not succumb to international legality and does not change its stands, which are contrary to all values and characterized by racism and arrogance.

Through this new U.S. announcement, Washington was not satisfied with rejecting any pressure by it or the international community on the Israeli entity to accept a just peace and the efforts that are being exerted to achieve this peace even if they are U.S. efforts, but went further by offering the Israeli entity all the enticements to reject this peace and these efforts.

The source of disappointment in the U.S. secretary of state's old-new statements is that he did not stop at the point of rejecting the exertion of pressure on the Israeli entity to make it accept peace, but also affirmed the continuation of U.S. support for all of the Israeli entity's stands and policies beginning with aggression and expansion and ending with undermining stability in the region and directly threatening world peace.

It is natural, in such a case, for Israeli rejection of even Shultz' efforts to be an object of appreciation, care, and support from the U.S. Administration.

The U.S. secretary of state's statement 2 days ago that the Israeli entity is surrounded by enemies was a tragic expression showing disregard for the most important facts. The ordinary observer cannot but be stunned by the audacity of making such a statement so simply.

If Shultz believes the Israeli entity has found itself surrounded by enemies who came from the unknown, then he is disregarding the fact that the Arabs, and the Palestinians in particular, feel their land and entity have been exposed to an illegal, inhuman, and immoral usurpation, which has stormed the privacy of their homes.

Therefore, it becomes strange indeed to welcome such usurpation. If we consider the rightful owners of the land and those aspiring for peace and justice and defending rights and existence as hostile, what then might we call those who attack the land and insist on aggression and injustice?

Perhaps, what the U.S. secretary wants to say is that pirates must not be surrounded by enemy seamen when they try, in unfair circumstances, to storm and hijack a ship, or that a gun-toting plane hijacker must not be surrounded by enemies when he threatens peaceful passengers. Backing pirates and hijackers means backing aggression and the desire to kill and destroy, not backing right, justice, and stability.

Regarding the city of Jerusalem, Shultz still insists on emphasizing the Israeli viewpoint, which sees the holy city as the unified capital of the Israeli entity. The U.S. stand is that the city must remain unified and that its status must be the subject of negotiations.

In short, this means that the U.S. and Israeli sides are asking the Arabs to concede the Arabism of the city through negotiations. If the Israeli stand on this subject is an old established one, we wonder what has made the United States retreat from its old stands.

Why didn't Shultz announce that the 1967 aggression included the city of Jerusalem and that Israeli withdrawal must also include this city? Why does the secretary of a major power grant this legality to occupation with such simplicity, thereby challenging the feelings of Arabs and Muslims?

Amal, Hizballah Clash After Death of Official

NC051436 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] There has been vicious fighting between the Amal Movement and Hizballah in Zawtar Ash Sharqiyah in the south since 1330 today. Amal has declared a state of alert and is massing forces in Al-Nabatiyah and its outskirts.

The fighting erupted following the death of Amal official Ibrahim Isma'il from injuries he sustained during a Hizballah attack on the Amal checkpoint at Haruf.

Our correspondent reported a short time ago that the Amal-Hizballah clashes have spread to Al-Nabatiyah. Two Amal members have been wounded in the fighting thus far.

Fighting Spreads

NC051554 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] Clashes bwetween the Amal Movement and Hizballah in the south, particularly in Zawtar and Al-Nabatiyah, have been raging since 1330 today. According to initial reports, a number of people have been killed and others wounded. There has also been a state of alert in Beirut's southern suburb. Our correspondent John Munayyir has the following details:

[Begin recording] The clashes erupted in Zawtar Ash Sharqiyah at 1330 following the death of Amal official Ibrahim Isma'il from injuries he sustained during a Hizballah attack on the Amal checkpoint at Haruf. The clashes soon grew fiercer and extended to Al-Nabatiyah, which was the scene of reciprocal alerts earlier. According to an official security source, automatic weapons and anti-tank rockets were used in the clashes that concentrated in the streets of Al-Nabatiyah.

In contacts with our radio, Amal Movement sources described the clashes as very violent and disclosed that dozens had been killed or wounded. These same sources added that it was hazardous to go into the streets to treat or count the casualties. They noted that an Amal Movement member was killed and another wounded in Zawtar Ash Sharqiyah, and that more than two members were wounded in Al-Nabatiyah.

A statement released by the Amal Operations Center warned against the gravity of these clashes, which, it said, are intended to create sedition in Jabal 'Amil and exacerbate differences among the Shi'ites.

Meanwhile, a Hizballah statement accused the Amal Movement of detaining dozens of its members in Al-Nabatiyah, especially in Zawtar Ash Sharqiyah and Haruf. The statement accused 'Ali Zaytuni and Abu Khashabah, guards of minister Nabih Birri, of carrying out aggressive acts in the south.

While both parties note reciprocal acts of aggression, they have taken exceptional security measures in the southern suburb for fear of reactions to the clashes in the south. [end recording]

Intensity of Clash Abates

NC052025 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] The intensity of the clashes in the Al-Nabatiyah area have abated since this evening. The parties concerned are trying to calm the situation. The clashes this afternoon had spread to Zawtar Ash Sharqiyah and to the Al-Nabatiyah area.

1 Dead, 13 Wounded

NC052209 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] According to preliminary reports, the clashes which took place between Amal and Hizballah fighters on the streets of Al-Nabatiyah and Zawtar Ash Sharqiyah today left 1 person dead and 13 others wounded.

The Amal Movement has disclosed that one of its fighters was killed and six others wounded during its attack on Zawtar Ash Sharqiyah, affirming it gained control this evening of the town and of the Hizballah headquarters located there. Furthermore, the Amal Movement has revealed that search operations have taken place to arrest the fundamentalists, who it accuses of attacking the Haruf checkpoint.

The Al-Nabatiyah clashes caused injuries among seven civilians. However, this number could be much higher because rescue teams cannot reach the battle scene, according to AFP. Amal has also affirmed that it sent reinforcements to take up positions inside Al-Nabatiyah, saying that Hizballah snipers hampered the advance of its militia toward the quarters under their control.

On their part, the fundamentalists said that Amal gunmen manning the Haruf checkpoint attacked and arrested the passengers of an Iranian Embassy car last Sunday while Ambassador Ahmad Dastmalchian was conducting a tour of the area.

Fighting Continues

NC060415 Paris AFP in English 0411 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Tyre, Lebanon, April 6 (AFP)—At least six people were killed and 20 wounded as rivalry between Shi'ite militias, the pro-Syrian Amal and the pro-Iranian Hizballah, turned to warfare in southern Lebanon Tuesday, concurrent sources said.

Militiamen fired anti-tank rockets, automatic guns at each other in the streets of Al-Nabatiyah, 75 kilometres (45 miles) south of Beirut.

Amal claimed late Tuesday to have taken control of the town along with nearby Haruf.

Security forces said that fighting continued in certain quarters of Al-Nabatiyah, a Shi'ite town of 40,000, late into the night. [passage omitted]

Spreads to Tyre

NC061019 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] According to reports from the south, clashes which flared again this morning between Amal and Hizballah have spread from Al-Nabatiyah to Tyre. Rockets and machine guns are being used in the fighting, which is concentrated in Al-Siddiqin and Zibqin. The clashes led to tension in some West Beirut areas, such as Al-Musaytibah, where the presence of militiamen has become particularly visible.

Tension Remains High

NC061017 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] According to the most recent reports from the south, clashes are raging on the outskirts of Al-Nabatiyah and Al-Siddiqin. Meanwhile, gunmen have fired a rocket at a civilian car, killing two Amal Movement members and wounding a third. Tension continues to engulf the area.

Amal Brings in Tanks

NC061111 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Excerpts] According to a security source, the death toll in the fighting between Amal and Hizballah in the south has risen to 12 in clashes which resumed this morning and are still going on in Al-Nabatiyah, Haruf, Zawtar, and Zibqin. The main road in the region is reportedly unsafe because of sniping from Sharqiyah.

According to the same source, the warring militias are using heavy-caliber machine guns, rockets, and tanks in the shelling. Two cease-fire agreements, the source said, failed to end the fighting. [passage omitted]

Amal sources say that their militiamen have been stationed in a tight cordon around Al-Nabatiyah after repulsing a Hizballah attack on Amal's main office in the town. Amal brought men and weapons from Beirut to reinforce its positions in the area, the sources said, adding that Amal is preparing to attack Hizballah strongholds in nearby villages.

Reporters, who were unable to enter Al-Nabatiyah due to the fierce fighting, note that the Amal Movement has stationed tanks on the hills overlooking the city and has fired over 500 shells to repel the attempted Hizballah attack against Amal's main office in the town.

Fedayeen Killed in Cross-Border Operation

NC051040 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] According to security sources, four Israeli soldiers were wounded at dawn today when fedayeen carried out an operation inside occupied Palestinian territory near Lebanon's southern border. The sources said that one fedayeen was martyred and that the occupation forces lit up the area with flares.

Conditions for Release of French Hostages Cited

JN051018 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 5 Apr 88 pp 1, 22

[Text] Beirut—AL-RA'Y has obtained exclusive information stating that new factors have recently emerged indicating the possibility of freeing the three French hostages in Lebanon.

According to this information, Shaykh Tashkiri, who represented Iran in the recent Islamic conference in Amman, arrived in Beirut upon his government's instructions for talks on the fate of the three French hostages.

This information stresses that Iran sets the following conditions for the release of the hostages in return for one French condition:

1. The full restoration of relations between France and Iran.

2. The halt of French arms supplies to Iraq.

3. A serious French discussion of the possibility of rescheduling Iranian debts to France.

The only French condition is that France alone should be given preference in economic investments in Iran.

The information adds that the Lebanese ambassador in Tehran Ja'far Mu'awiyah, who is currently in Beirut, had met with Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil for 55 minutes and relayed to him important information on the fate of the French hostages in Lebanon. Moreover, a French delegation has secretly visited Beirut for the same purpose. An Iranian delegation also secretly visited Lebanon at the time a French delegation was visiting Damascus for the same purpose.

In a related development, a prominent European ambassador, who is preparing to leave Lebanon forever, stated that the French hostages will be released very soon. He added that competition between President Mitterrand and Prime Minister Chirac over the presidency has become a problem because Mitterrand's group believes the release of the French hostages at this time will be in the interest of Chirac, as it will strongly support him in the next French presidential elections.

Release Expected Shortly

NC051501 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] Syrian businessman 'Imran Adham, who is known to have a close relationship with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, has declared that it is probable that the French hostages in Lebanon will be released shortly if certain parties undertake to release all kidnapped persons. He expressed the view that the hostage issue is a spent issue. He added that the kidnappers cannot continue to hold their hostages because prolonging this matter will only harm the kidnappers. He noted that two representatives of the French Government are currently in Lebanon.

Adham described Syrian-Iranian relations as having been stagnant for approximately 2 months now. He explained that Damascus has criticized Iran and urged it to observe a minimum of rationality, particularly with regard to Lebanon. Adham asserted that Tehran has not observed this limitation. Adham said he consequently expects the confrontation between Iran and Syria to be stepped up if Tehran cannot exert pressure on Hizballah. He added that Iran has also refused to respect its commitments to not expand the Gulf war.

In another connection, the Syrian businessman expressed the belief that President Hafiz al-Asad's brother Rif'at will return to Damascus in the next few days to reassume his post as vice president for security and Armed Forces affairs.

Reportage on Visit by U.S. Secretary of State

Arrives in Damascus 5 Apr

JN051509 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1456 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] Damascus, 5 Apr (SANA)—U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and his wife arrived here this afternoon on a visit to Syria. He was received at the airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and his wife and the U.S. ambassador in Damascus.

Received by Al-Asad

JN051809 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and his delegation at 1800 today. The meeting was attended by Faruq al-Shar' and U.S. Ambassador in Damascus William Eagleton. Talks centered on the situation in the region.

Leaves After Talks 5 Apr

JN052037 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] At 1800 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and the accompanying delegation. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and U.S. Ambassador in Damascus William Eagleton. Talks centered on the situation in the region.

Shultz presented a review of the course of his regional tour and the contacts held during this tour. He also reviewed the international contacts held by the United States on the situation in the Middle East.

The president explained that Syria believes that achieving a just, comprehensive peace in the region requires the following:

First, the convening of an effective international conference to wield full powers.

Second, Israel's complete withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territory.

Third, recognizing the Palestinian Arab people's complete national rights, including the right to self-determination and to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

Fourth, the participation of the Arab side in an international conference through a united Arab delegation.

The president explained to Mr Shultz that there is united Arab understanding of the components of a just, comprehensive peace. Hence, the Arab side, including the PLO, can participate in an international conference through a united Arab delegation.

George Shultz and his wife left Damascus at 2145 today after a short visit to Syria. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', his wife, a number of senior Foreign Ministry officials, the U.S. ambassador in Damascus, and the U.S. Embassy staff.

Commentary on Al-Asad-Shultz 5 Apr Meeting

JN061315 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz yesterday came to Damascus within his second regional tour to present U.S. ideas on tackling the situation in the occupied Arab territory and the regional crisis, mainly represented by the Arab-Israeli conflict. During his previous visit, Shultz presented the idea, which his assistant Richard Murphy had orally presented, in a paper titled: Memorandum of Understanding.

The contents of the paper presented by Shultz to some parties to the conflict were published in American and Israeli newspapers. The contents have become known to quarters interested in the situation in the Middle East and its crisis and to large circles of world public opinion.

The U.S. proposals were subject to criticism from many sides. Soviet newspapers and media expressed the viewpoint that these proposals, in their present form, do not meet the requirements of achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region and that there are many questions that need clear answers from the U.S. side.

Criticism of the U.S. proposals appeared in Arab and foreign media, which focused mainly on the nature of the international conference, the Palestinians' rights, and Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territory. World media circles wondered why Shultz continued his attempts after the criticism directed at his mission and his government's proposals. Shultz' answered by saying: It is correct that nobody said yes, but, at the same time, nobody said no either.

Naturally, any country, particularly if it assumes specific responsibilities in light of its position, size, role, and relations, has the right to present proposals and to continue contacts with the parties it believes necessary to contact on this or that matter. The other parties also have the right to discuss, accept, or reject. This is natural in international relations and in dealings among countries. Discussions and exchanges of opinions on this or that matter do not necessarily mean acceptance or rejection.

It is useful in the present international situation for parties to be acquainted with each others' opinions vis-a-vis international problems, particularly if these problems are complicated and difficult and if their development affects overall international relations, as is the case in the Middle East crisis.

In its capacity as a superpower and permanent member of the Security Council that has strategic relations with Israel—relations that involve it in the Middle East conflict—the United States assumes a big responsibility for complications in the Middle East crisis and for Israel's actions. Had it not been for U.S. aid, Israel could not have followed its policy of militarization, armament, and use of force; practiced its policy of occupation and annexation; or rebelled against the international community.

If the United States wants to convince Israel's rulers of a stand it can certainly do so. However, so far, the United States has not shown any desire to convince Israel to relinquish its stands, which undermine peace and all genuine efforts aimed at establishing a just and comprehensive peace in the region. This, in particular, places on the shoulders of the United States a big responsibility for the continuation of the complicated, serious, and explosive situation in the region.

Yesterday, the U.S. secretary of state heard from President Hafiz al-Asad Syria's principled stand on the issue of peace in the region. This stand lays down in a clear and realistic way firm bases to establish a just and comprehensive peace and presents a real understanding of any international effort within the framework of the United Nations to find a settlement leading to a just and comprehensive peace.

The Syrian stand is summarized in the following four points, which the president presented to Mr Shultz:

First, an effective international conference to wield full powers.

Second, complete Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territory.

Third, recognizing the Palestinian Arab people's complete national rights, including the right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

Fourth, the participation of the Arab side, including the PLO, in the international conference through a united Arab delegation.

These points, in fact, constitute an integral plan to tackle the regional crisis on the basis of the UN Charter and resolutions as well as the people's right to freedom, independence, and sovereignty over their land. The chances of Syria's acceptance of any plan is contingent on its applicability to these four points.

Paper Says Shamir Trying To Change Shultz Plan

JN061328 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1110 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Damascus, 6 Apr (SANA)—The newspaper TISHRIN says that enemy Prime Minister Shamir is trying to empty U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' proposals of any content, as he is ignoring an international conference and concentrates on activating direct negotiations.

In a comment today, the paper adds that Israel rejects withdrawal and considers the occupied Arab territories liberated lands. At the same time, Israel refuses to recognize the most basic Palestinian rights.

The paper adds that Shultz' proposals present nothing new. Most probably, these proposals will lose some of their elements every time Shultz visits Israel until eventually they become Shamir's proposals; that is, giving up the whole of Palestine to Israel. Consequently, this removes the seriousness of this initiative.

Concluding, TISHRIN affirms that Arab demands are lawful and rightful, while Israel's schemes and practices are a slap against law and right. How can the Untied States patronize Israel and its schemes and at the same time claim that it is concerned about establishing peace in the region?

CPSU Official, Delegation Conclude Visit

JN041645 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 4 Apr 88

[Text] Comrade Sulayman Qaddah, assistant regional secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party today received Comrade Fikryat Tabeyev, CPSU Central Committee member and chairman of the USSR-Syria Society, and his delegation. They discussed cooperation between the friendly countries and parties and ways to advance it further.

Comrade Tabeyev praised Syria's courageous, wise policies. He emphasized his country's support for the Syrian people's struggle against intrigue and conspiracies plotted by imperialism and Zionism in the region.

At the outset of the meeting, Comrade Qaddah outlined Syria's achievements in various areas and emphasized Syria's constancy in standing up to imperialist and Zionist schemes to impose dominance over the Arab region and entrench Israeli occupation of Arab land. He lauded the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territory and condemned the savage, repressive tactics used by the neo-Nazis to demolish it.

Later in the day the Soviet official left Syria concluding an 8-day visit. On hand to see him off were Comrade Wahib Tannus, member of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, and the Soviet ambassador in Damascus. During his stay Tabeyev and his delegation toured a number of the Syrian governorates and met with party and state officials.

Afghanistan

National Assembly Elections Begin 5 April

LD051902 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1730 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Elections to the National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan began in an orderly manner in all provinces. They are progressing in 168 election wards for the Council of Representatives, and 57 election wards for the Senate, which are under state sovereignty. As of 5 April, 955,000 people are registered on the voter lists. At the start of voting in Kabul City, 300 to 2,000 voters went to every polling station.

Before the elections began, a few verses from the holy Koran were recited. Esteemed Hatef [chairman of the National Front] addressed the voters on central television and the voting began. Esteemed Najibullah, the president of Afghanistan; members of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo; members of the government; leaders of the left democratic unity parties, and responsible officials of social organizations were among the first voters. The elections are continuing in an atmosphere of broad openness.

Based on the turnout in residential areas, explanatory and publicity work concerning the candidates is progressing; the candidates themselves, particularly those who ran as individual candidates, are actively participating. Photos and biographies of the candidates are being displayed at voting centers.

At polling places explanations are provided concerning domestic and international life and the process of talks in Geneva. The voting method is explained and the biographies of the candidates are introduced. Artists shows are displayed and voter transportation to the polling places has been organized. Free lunch is provided for the voters, and secret ballot conditions are being maintained everywhere. All the preliminary work and the election itself are taking place in an atmosphere of broad democracy.

Candidates to the Council of Representatives and Senate have been put forward by the National Front; by five political parties: the PDPA, the Afghanistan Toilers Organization; the Afghanistan Revolutionary Organization; the Peasants Justice Party of Afghanistan; and the Islamic Party of the People of Afghanistan; and by the DYOA; the National Council of Afghanistan Women; the Central Council of Nomads and Peasantry cooperatives; and representatives of the civilian and regional armed forces. Some 70 percent of the candidates are independent.

The number of candidates in some wards runs from six to eight for a seat. According to information in some election wards, representatives of the opposition have also put forward candidates. Most of the voters expressed support for the policy of the PDPA and the country's president, and support for the policy of the party and state toward establishing peace and stability in the country. [passage omitted]

147,300 Voters Turn Out

LD051921 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1730 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] Results of today's elections to the National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan: In Badghis Province, voter turnout was 1,700 people; in Bamian Province, 400; in Badakhshan Province 2,000; in Baghlan Province 7,800; Balkh Province 6,000; Parwan Province, 2,300; Paktia Province, 500; Paktika Province, 400; Jowzjan, 3,500; Khowst District, 1,300; Zabol Province, 300; Samangan Province, 2,000; Ghazni Province, 900; Faryab Province, 3,000; Farah Province, 1,500; Kabul City, 43,000; Kabul Province, 11,400; Kapisa, 700; Konduz, 5,000; Qandahar, 3,000; Konarha, 200; Laghman Province, 400; Lowgar Province, 300; Nangarhar Province, 6,800; Vardak Province, 300; Herat Province, 16,000; Helmand Province, 1,500; and among armed forces personnel, 25,100.

A total of 147,300 people took part in today's elections.

In some provinces, the elections are taking place under difficult conditions. The opposition is firing at the centers of Qandahar, Bamian, Konarha and Kapisa Provinces, at the Khowst district and elsewhere. According to another report, the question of dividing Election Ward 48 to the Council of Representatives in Baghlan Province into two election wards was discussed. In this regard, the president of Afghanistan issued a decree concerning the creation of Election Ward 231. The election is continuing.

Najibullah on Elections

PM051501 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 6 Apr 88 First Edition p 5

[Interview with President Najibullah by special correspondent S. Volovets: "Most Humane Aims"; place, date not given]

[Text] [Volovets] Comrade President, you have agreed to meet me for a conversation at a portentous time for the republic. Elections to the National Assembly—the country's parliament—have begun, and then the Afghan people will celebrate the 10th anniversary of the April revolution. What does this stage mean for Afghanistan; what, in your view, are the main achievements of this period; and what are the chief problems facing the country today?

[Najibullah] I think that the most substantial results in the political sphere are connected with the implementation of the policy of national reconciliation which we proclaimed more than a year ago. This policy is, at the same time, both a manifestation of the new thinking as applied to today's complex conditions in our country

and a kind of experiment which has definite universal significance for resolving international regional conflicts in various parts of the world.

I will use the word "restructuring," which is well known everywhere, to define the process now taking place in the country. It is linked, above all, with the change in the system which has taken shape in our country since the revolution toward democratization and a multiparty, coalition system. Various new, registered political parties are operating in the country at election time, and they are able to put forward their candidates for parliament. Representation of tribes, which today remain an extremely important element of our social structure, is also ensured. I hope that representatives of all trends who sincerely desire the restoration of peace in our long-suffering country will be able to work together fruitfully.

We are also open to cooperation with the opposition abroad. We have made more than a dozen proposals, each of which provided an opportunity to commence a dialogue. And if the leaders of the opposition abroad have so far rejected them, I do not think that this attests to their strength, to firmness of character, or to breadth of political vision. Now that the question of the Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan has been resolved, no one can justify the actions of the "Alliance of Seven" in Pakistan, which rejects a national dialogue. In just the same way there is no justification for the international forces which are holding up the reaching of agreement at the Afghan-Pakistani talks in Geneva.

[Volovets] What, in your view, should be singled out when evaluating the successes of national reconciliation?

[Najibullah] Clearly, in order to hold national elections it was first necessary to secure a certain level of popular support for the new policy. I have already spoken of the creation of new political parties, and that is an undoubted sign of the changes. But perhaps the creation of local coalition organs with the participation of opposition forces must be considered a clearer indicator of the support for national reconciliation. Here are a few figures. Representatives of various parties, organizations, and associations now make up more than three-fourths of the composition of local organs of power and administration locally—and only approximately one-fourth belong to the PDPA. Over the year, approximately 3,200 settlements have peacefully recognized the central government's authority. Some 120,000 refugees have returned home from abroad. On no account do I wish to say that we are over the hump, but these facts indicate the direction of the political process.

[Volovets] Our newspaper's readers often ask whether there is any chance of cooperation between the republic's government and the commanders of the armed opposition detachments who were previously involved in combat operations. Can you tell us what progress has been made in this area?

[Najibullah] Over the last year some 40,000 people from armed formations have come over to the side of state authority. This process continues. We have already mentioned representatives of the opposition in county and province administration—they include commanders of detachments who once fought against the government. Moreover, the doors of our central institutions and departments are open to people who are prepared to work honestly to restore the country; these people may—and some already do—hold command posts in the armed forces.

[Volovets] In the social and economic sphere the people's power has long proclaimed the following slogan: Everyone should have the housing, clothing, and food he deserves. What is the current situation with regard to implementing social programs and how is the republic's economy developing?

[Najibullah] Naturally, economic life has been seriously affected by the many years of armed struggle, migration of the population, and the collapse of the production infrastructure. This has particularly affected agrarian production; after all, Afghanistan today is still basically a peasant country. The cotton, grain, and grape harvests have all suffered. We have been unable to carry out—at any rate in full—our extensive plans to provide peasants with land and water and improve life for working people.

National reconciliation opens up possibilities for creating a strong, independent economy. It will be combined with a strong state sector and with favorable conditions for national entrepreneurs and private foreign capital.

We have no intention of imposing on the people decisions and reforms for which they are still not ready in terms of the level of their awareness and their real living conditions. We have made this mistake more than once before.

If we are successful, we will soon be able to stop inflation, then reduce prices and increase the population's real income. This is the main source of finance for programs concerning housing and municipal construction, education, public health care, and other social needs. There is an enormous amount of work to do.

[Volovets] In conclusion, Comrade President, allow me to ask you a personal question. You are one of the youngest heads of state at one of the most difficult periods in your country's history. What helps you in your difficult, responsible work?

[Najibullah] Allow me to say a few words about this. I am a physician by education and believe that this is the most humane of professions. And finding the right political decisions in the conditions of our long-suffering country is now a task no less humane. I and other leaders draw our strength from this, and the measure of our responsibility is also determined by this.

USSR's Murakhovskiy Hold Talks in Kabul 5 Apr

Meets With Najibullah

LD051934 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] Esteemed Afghan President Najibullah met today with Vsevolod Serafimovich Murakhovskiy, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, who is in Kabul to attend the eighth session of the Afghan-Soviet intergovernmental commission.

Trade and economic cooperation aimed at developing the Republic of Afghanistan's productivity potential and social sphere were greatly stressed. Ensuring socioeconomic development under the conditions of national reconciliation is especially important. Ideas of national reconciliation predominate in the hearts of an ever-increasing number of Afghans. The president said that the people are thinking ahead to the peaceful days when they will be able to work undisturbed on their lands and work hard in the factories in order to increase the manufacture of products needed by the people.

The national reconciliation policy is gaining strength. All strata of people, including those who live outside the country and even those who have so far fought, arms in hand, against their brothers, actively support it. The implementation of this policy is displayed in the final resolution of the principles of pluralism and coalition in the political syste and the approval of the new constitution, in accordance with which the National Assembly elections are taking place today.

Murakhovskiy told Esteemed Najibullah about perestroyka, which is in progress in the Soviet Union.

There were talks on the many contacts between the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union. For many decades our countries have been an example of friendship and goodneighborliness and of economic and trade relations based on mutual interests. This cooperation has played a great role in the consolidation of the April Revolution, whose 10th anniversary will be celebrated in the near future. Under new conditions, the role of cooperation is considerably developing. Economic development forms the basis for the solution of many socioeconomic problems.

Specific plans for the subsequent consolidation of Afghanistan's economic independence aim at prosperity for the broad masses of Afghanistan. In particular, this basic policy is reflected in the long-term Afghan-Soviet cooperation program to the year 2000. Work on the draft of this is still in progress. The main orientation of the deep relations is the direct connection between a number of Soviet republics and Afghan provinces. This orientation requires comprehensive support. From the viewpoint of its nature, it is an outstanding event in the universal practice of interstate cooperation. Russians, Ukrainians, Belorussians, Kazakhs, Armenians, Azerbaijanis, Georgians, Uzbeks, Tajiks, and Turkmens are resolutely ready to support the peaceful and creative activities of the Afghan people and to help in the development of the economy and culture of the related Afghan provinces.

The meeting took place in a friendly atmosphere and was constructive.

Meets With Keshtmand

LD052013 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] Prime Minister Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand met at the Council of Ministers' Office this morning with Vsevolod Serafimovich Murakhovskiy, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and head of Agroprom State Committee, who has come to Kabul at the head of a high-ranking delegation to participate in eighth session of the Afghan-Soviet permanent economic cooperation commission.

During this meeting, held in a sincere atmosphere, they comprehensively assessed the implementation of the decisions made at the commission's seventh session. Talks were also held on the realization of reciprocal duties concerning direct cooperation between the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union. Both sides have assessed the activities of the commission as positive. They regard the signed agreements as a new step toward progress in future reciprocal, advantageous cooperation. Deputy Prime Minister Muhammad Aziz and Nikolay Grigoryevich Yegorychev, USSR ambassador and extraordinary representative in Kabul, were also present at this meeting.

According to another report, the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Afghanistan gave a reception at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reception hall this evening in honor of this delegation. Prime Minister Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand and Murakhovskiy, head of the USSR delegation, made speeches at this reception. The report adds that the high-ranking Soviet delegation laid a wreath and paid their respects this morning at the memorial to the martyrs of the revolution.

Najibullah Sees Off Awami Chairman 5 April

LD052051 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] Khan Abdol Wali Khan, chairman of the Awami National Party, who had come to Kabul to participate in the international AAPSO conference on the role of social organizations in solving regional issues, left Kabul this morning.

He was seen off at Kabul Airport by Esteemed Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan; Saleh Muhammad Ziray and Niaz Muhammad Mohmand, members of the PDPA Central Committee Secretariat

and Politburo; Solayman La'eq, minister of tribal and border affairs; and Sarwaw Mangal, chairman of Afghanistan's Peace, Solidarity, and Friendship Organization.

Keshtmand Meets CEMA Delegation 2 April

LD022107 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 2 Apr 88

[Text] Prime Minister Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand met today with members of a CEMA delegation in his office. Mahbubullah Koshani, president of the state committee for planning, as the head of the Afghan side of the CEMA commission for aiding the Republic of Afghanistan, gave details of the joint commission's work and the results of cooperation. The president of the delegation also gave a briefing.

Then Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand spoke of the importance of cooperation between CEMA and Afghanistan. He expressed his gratitude for the bilateral and multilateral cooperation between the CEMA countries and the Republic Afghanistan in the socioeconomic development of the country. He said that when he attended a CEMA conference a year ago as the head of the Afghan delegation, the Afghan side requested that a commission of cooperation be set up between Afghanistan and CEMA in order to harmonize the Republic of Afghanistan's foreign economic relations with the CEMA countries. Today we note with satisfaction that our proposal was welcomed by the member countries of the council, and the resolution of the 42d session of the council is being put into practice. This commission has now ended its first session in the city of Kabul. We know that the commission discussed this cooperation project during commission work and that decisions were made about multilateral cooperation.

Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand said that the socialist countries are carrying out valuable cooperation with the Republic of Afghanistan in order to overcome problems. We express our gratitude to the fraternal socialist countries for their great help to revolutionary Afghanistan in developing the economic potential of the country and the implementation of the social tasks anticipated for 1986-90 in the socioeconomic development of the Republic of Afghanistan. As for the Soviet Union, other socialist countries, and CEMA member countries, their friendly and fraternal help is a reliable means of carrying out the national economic development plans and improving the living standards of the people of Afghanistan.

Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, speaking about the importance of the assistance of the socialist countries, said that 60 percent of the state investment in the implementation of related projects comes from economic and technical help from the Soviet Union, the Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia, the People's Republic of Bulgaria, the GDR and other members of the council. He said that three-fourths of the assistance is rendered by the Soviet Union. I would like to assure the member countries that the government of the Republic of Afghanistan is totally prepared for active cooperation and will take practical steps toward effectively utilizing it.

At the end of the meeting, (Tim Jak), chairman of the second session of the commission, asserted on behalf of the CEMA countries that CEMA is prepared to assist in the socioeconomic development of the Republic of Afghanistan.

New Province Formed, Governor Named

LD032201 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 3 Apr 88

[Text] According to a decree of the republican office of Afghanistan, the new Sar-e Pol Province was officially created yesterday at Sar-e Pol City, the provincial capital and an elder of the province was appointed as governor.

A BIA correspondent reported that a ceremony held on this occasion at Sar-e Pol City, Sayd Nasim Mayhanparast, the deputy prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, officially congratulated the people of that province and requested their active participation in realizing the national reconciliation policy and maintaining peace throughout the country. At the end of the ceremony, 13 people were elected as members of the province's council of representatives; from among them, Gharib Hosayn, an elder of Sar-e Pol Province was appointed governor of Sar-e Pol Province.

This province contains southern regions of Balkh Province, including the Sholgara and Cahrkent districts and the Keshandi subdistrict, as well as areas within Jowzjan Province including the Sar-e Pol, Sangcharak, Kohestanat districts and the Panjab and Sozma Qala subdistricts. Its capital is Sar-e Pol City.

Further on New Province

BK050210 Hong Kong AFP in English 0148 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Islamabad, April 4 (AFP)—Plans are underway to divide Afghanistan into northern and southern zones and set up a second capital in Mazar-e-Sharif near the Soviet border, rebel and diplomatic sources here say.

The announcement of a deputy prime minister, Najibullah Masir, for northern Afghanistan on March 13 has fuelled fears of a partition of the country, as no such post has been announced for other regions, according to Western diplomats.

They said the Kabul regime could be planning a Vietnam-style partition as the south is more vulnerable to Afghan guerrillas based in Pakistan and Iran, adding that Moscow wanted "more secure" roads and highways in the north for a planned troop withdrawal later this year.

In the event of a partition, Prime Minister Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand might be appointed to head northern Afghanistan, which would have its capital at Mazar-e-Sharif near the Soviet border, diplomats say.

A new province called Sar-e Pol has been created, including parts of Balkh, Faryab, Jowzjan, and Samangan Provinces in the north — making it the country's 30th province, Radio Kabul said in a dispatch monitored here.

On Sunday, Gharib Khan was named the first governor of the province, whose capital will also be called Sar-e Pol, the radio said.

Rebel sources say the move was part of a plan to divide Afghanistan along ethnic lines. [Passage omitted]

18 Soviet Troops Reportedly Killed
LD031603 Tehran IRNA in English 1518 GMT 3 Apr 88

[Text] Islamabad, April 3, IRNA—Afghan Muslim revolutionaries destroyed a copter and killed 18 troops of the occupying forces in Paktika and Parwan Provinces of Afghanistan in their operations last week.

Soviet-Afghan joint forces failed to break the siege of Ghowr Band Governorate in Parvan Province on March 29. The attack was defeated by the Afghan mujahidin who lay the siege around the governorate.

Some 18 occupying forces were killed and 37 others including 13 officers and NCO's captured by the Afghan revolutionaries in the course of the operations. A good size of weapons were also seized.

Meanwhile, governor-general of Baghlan Province Arab Sultan Muhammad, taken prisoner along with two members of security police of Kabul regime, was sentenced to death by revolutionary court of mujahidin and executed on March 21. Sultan Muhammad was an influential land-owner and agro-magnate in Baghlan Province.

On March 27, a camp belonging to the Soviet-Afghan joint forces in Khowst Governorate was attacked by a rocket as a result of which a Soviet copter which was ready to fly was destroyed and its pilot killed.

Security Forces Discover Bomb, Drug Haul
LD051547 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1330 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] The enemies of national reconciliation and nationwide peace are making vain efforts, by creating an atmosphere of fear and savagery among our compatriots, to blunt the process of national reconciliation. During the past week these criminals have carried out deceptive activities in some parts of the country. During the past week they have launched surface-to-surface missiles against some residential areas in Konar Province, destroying a number of homes of our compatriots, and martyred two people and injured two.

Also through one of their devilish designs, by placing explosive substances near the Silo shop of Qala-e Shada in Kabul City, they tried to cause an explosion and to martyr our innocent compatriots. However, the vigilant security forces discovered the device was discovered in time and neutralized it. In addition, security forces discovered and seized 10 surface-to-surface missiles, along with launchers, which had been stored by these criminal elements at a house in Qala-e Shada, Kabul City, in order to disrupt the peaceful life of our compatriots.

During the week 35 kg of packed heroine; 71 kg of heroine powder; and 9 kg of opium, which had been imported from Pakistan in order to addict our youth and which had been hidden in a house at Afshar-e Darolaman, were discovered by the security forces. The incident was referred to the relevant authorities for investigation.

'Extremist' Activities in Konar Halted
LD052031 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] The extremist armed group which, in violation of a cease-fire, had been perpetrating terrorist activities and plundering the property of the people in the area around Konar Province was recently crushed by the country's vigilant security forces.

Islamabad Reports Mujahidin Attacks in Kabul
BK060640 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin attacked Karga cantonment of the Soviet-Kabul forces in Kabul, killing 17 Soviet-Kabul soldiers. Earlier, the mujahidin carried out rocket attacks on Soviet-Kabul battalion headquarters in the (Pulibasthi) area of Kabul, killing 12 Soviet-Kabul soldiers. Another report says the mujahidin also attacked the ruling party's office on Jalalabad highway east of Kabul, in (Ferobi) subdivision, killing four persons, including two Soviet advisers. The mujahidin also repulsed the Soviet-Kabul forces' attacks on their positions in (Wazan) in Parwan Province, killing 18 Soviet-Kabul soldiers and capturing 39 with their weapons.

Tripartite Alliance Official Returns 1 April
LD011957 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 1 Apr 88

[Text] Bakhtar reports that Haji Ghausuddin, head of the tripartite alliance mission in India, and his colleagues returned to the country this evening on an Ariana Afghan airlines flight.

The BAKHTAR correspondent reports that Haji Ghausuddin and his entourage were welcomed at Kabul Airport by Habib Mangal, first deputy chairman of the national front and deputy head of the State Committee for Refugees, a number of private investors, and some officials in the Republic of Afghanistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The report adds that, at a meeting held in the reception hall at Kabul Airport, the first deputy chairman of the National Front of the Republic of Afghanistan spoke about the policy of national reconciliation and the implementation of this humane policy in the country. He welcomed these compatriots' arrival in their ancestral land.

Haji Ghausuddin then spoke about the Republic of Afghanistan's principled stand for a speedy solution of the situation around Afghanistan and the restoration of nationwide peace in the country. He expressed his profound support for the policy of national reconciliation and practical implementation of the policy.

According to another report from Delhi, before his departure this morning Haji Ghausuddin took part in a news conference at the Afghan Embassy, in which over 100 Indian and foreign journalists took part. At the start of this news conference, the Afghan Embassy consul in India briefed the journalists on the gains of the policy of national reconciliation and the sound stand of the Republic of Afghanistan's sound stand at the Geneva talks. He then introduced Haji Ghausuddin to the journalists and invited questions.

In reply to a question, Haji Ghausuddin said: After perceiving the truth of the policy of national reconciliation in the Republic of Afghanistan and of the recent statements by the Esteemed Najibullah, the president of Afghanistan, I and my colleagues regarded the policy of national reconciliation as a humanitarian policy. We believe that this policy can end bloodshed and fratricide in the country. Because of this, we have decided to close our offices in India and we will open a new office in Afghanistan to support the peace-seeking policy of the Republic of Afghanistan and to cooperate to bring about nationwide peace in the country. He said that he will ask all the leaders of parties who live in Peshawar not to continue any longer as a tool in the hands of others, but to return as soon as possible to the country and prepare the ground for the withdrawal of the limited military units of the Soviet Union. Haji Ghausuddin added that Pakistan and the United States have never thought of the Afghans, but they look after their own interests.

In connection with the messages that he sent concerning cooperation for the restoration of peace in Afghanistan, addressed to Prime Minister Gandhi of India and the UN secretary general, he said: I hope, as a faithful and Muslim person, to further serve our country and people in the future. He also sent messages to Ziaul Haq, president of Pakistan, and leaders of the tripartite alliance in Peshawar, asking them not to block peace in Afghanistan any longer and to assist in ending the war in Afghanistan.

Further Ghausuddin Comments

LD060908 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Kabul, April 4, BAKHTAR—"The leaders of the opposition three party-alliance may wish to come to Afghanistan, but Ziaul Haq is impeding their return," Said H. Ghausuddin, head of the office of the three party-alliance of the Afghan opposition in New Delhi, who returned to Afghanistan from New Delhi, availing the policy of national reconciliation, in a press conference to domestic and foreign journalists recently held here.

Replying to a question raised by the Soviet TV reporter, H. Ghausuddin said, "The Afghan refugees living in Pakistan or any other countries wish to return home.

"I myself returned home to make my contribution in cessation of war and bloodshed in my homeland. He said that the Pakistani Government has raised the issue of Durand Line in Geneva talks to split the Afghans. But not a single Afghan recognises the Durand line."

Replying a question posed by an American journalist, he said that American agents were also present in the demonstrations launched by the refugees in New Delhi.

He said that Afghanistan has a long historic and traditional relations with the Soviet Union and these relations will be continued after the return of the Soviet contingent from Afghanistan to their homeland as well.

He stated that Afghan refugees are humiliated in Iran. Recently four hundred Afghan refugees facing with many difficulties and being humilated by the Iranian pasdaran (Guards) returned to India. They had complained about the approach of the Iranian authorities toward Afghans, he said.

Bangladesh

Opposition Demands Ershad Resign by 8 Apr

BK011339 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 25 Mar 88 pp 1, 10

[Text] The mainstream Opposition Alliances and parties gave an ultimatum to the Government to resign by April 8. The Liaison Committee of the Eight-Party, Seven-Party and Five-Party Alliances declared that if President Ershad and his Government refuse to resign by April 8 the three Alliances will announce programmes for continuous programmes to unseat the Government and compel it to quit. The programmes were announced at

the separate rallies of the three Alliances held in the city in observance of "Black Day" on Thursday. Jamiyat-i Islami also gave similar programme at its rally on the day.

The three Alliances and Jamiyat gave a call to continue demonstrations at the district and upazila [subdivisional] levels and also in industrial areas till April 8. The declaration read out at the rallies of the three Alliances and Jamiyat urged all to resist the design for "militarisation" of administration. It called upon the people to turn the current democratic movement into a mass upsurge to remove the autocratic regime. The Alliances demanded release of all political leaders and workers.

Opposition Against Naming State Religion
BK060354 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] In Bangladesh, the major opposition alliances of 20 parties have called upon the people to unitedly resist President Ershad's move to make Islam the state religion. In a statement, the liaison committee of the alliances said the move in the name of religion aims to perpetuate the autocratic regime. Several intellectuals from different fields, including the peasant and students leaders, have urged the progressive forces to struggle unitedly to end politics of religion and the autocratic rule. They have also warned of repression on the masses in the name of religion.

Commentary Urges Repatriating Pakistanis
BK041354 Dhaka Overseas Service in English
1230 GMT 4 Apr 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] For the last 17 years since Bangladesh's independence more than 250,000 Pakistani nationals have been living in refugee camps in Bangladesh waiting for return to their own country. But their waiting seems to be endless and their frustration has led many among the stranded Pakistanis to take to such extreme steps of self-torture as going on a hunger strike. Since March 23 a group of stranded Pakistanis have begun a fast unto death on a sidewalk in front of the National Press Club in Central Dhaka to press for their repatriation to Pakistan. Mohammad Nasim Khan, chief of the stranded Pakistani general repatriation committee, said that the hunger strike would continue till the Pakistan Government came up with a definite date when they will start taking them home. At least four of the hunger strikers had to be taken to hospitals for treatment when their condition became critical last week. Meanwhile, hundreds of children of stranded Pakistanis submitted a petition to the Pakistan Embassy in Dhaka urging the authorities in Islamabad to take them home.

The stranded Pakistanis are Urdu-speaking migrants mostly from the Indian state of Bihar who came to Bangladesh, then the eastern wing of Pakistan, during communal strife following partition of the Indian subcontinent. When Bangladesh became independent in December 1971, over 400,000 of these immigrants lived in this country. Almost all of them opted to keep their Pakistani citizenship and expressed their desire to go to Pakistan where part of their families lived and where they felt ethnically and linguistically at home. It was the moral responsibility of Pakistan to take her nationals home after 1971. Bangladesh on her part brought back all of her citizens from Pakistan who were stranded after the war of independence, but since Pakistan could not immediately reciprocate the action, the Biharis, as they are commonly described, became refugees in Red Cross camps in Dhaka and other cities.

Repeated requests from Bangladesh to Pakistan to take back her nationals led to negotiations between the two governments in the mid-70's which in turn helped in arranging the return home of a part of the Bihari community. But the majority are still in refugee camps facing an uncertain future. Bangladesh has been looking after the Pakistani citizens as a humanitarian gesture and, despite economic constraint, has taken the responsibility of providing basic needs to these foreign nationals. It is apparent that Bangladesh cannot bear this economic burden for long and that the agonies of the Biharis should come to an end.

Foreign Minister Humayun Rashid Chowdhury commenting on the plight of these stranded Pakistani nationals in Bangladesh said that it was mainly the responsibility of Pakistan to arrange the repatriation of the Biharis. The Biharis for their part have blamed the Pakistan Government for delaying repatriation. They said they have suffered during the last 17 years as virtually stateless people separated from their families in Pakistan. Leaders of the Bihari community in Bangladesh are grateful to Bangladesh for taking care of them and for pleading for their repatriation to Pakistan in international forums.

In her latest appeal to Pakistan, Bangladesh has asked Islamabad to look at the problem of the Biharis as a humanitarian issue and take urgent steps for the repatriation of her nationals from Bangladesh. One hopes that this appeal will not go in vain and both Pakistan and international organizations which have pleaded to help repatriation will now come to an end the agonies of these stranded Pakistanis. [sentence as heard]

India

Punjab Government To Move Against Terrorism
BK051604 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] In a move to check terrorism, the Punjab government has decided to set up pickets in rural areas. Police sources said 300 pickets will be set up in Amritsar

District. The state government is also actively considering a plan to provide the existing village peace committees in Amritsar and Gurdaspur Districts with small defense outfits. Volunteers from among the villagers will be enrolled and provided arms and ammunition. Terrorists gunned down six persons, including an SGPC employee, since last evening. Two persons were killed in Gurdaspur District, two in Amritsar, and the other two in Kapurthala.

A terrorist, Gurdip Singh, allegedly involved in the Khuda bus massacre has been arrested by the Delhi police. Twenty-two bus passengers were gunned down by terrorists in Khuda in November 1986. Gurdip Singh has admitted his involvement in various terrorist crimes, including murders and dacoities [robberies]. The minister of state for home, Mr P. Chidambaram, will report to the prime minister about the discussions he had with senior civil and police officials in Punjab. The meetings were held in Ludhiana and Amritsar to take stock of the latest situation in Punjab and decide on measures to check the spurt in terrorist violence. A high-level meeting will be held in Chandigarh tomorrow. It will be attended by the home minister, Mr Buta Singh.

Terrorists Use Border To Smuggle Weapons

BK050745 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir chief minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah, today informed the State Assembly that there is evidence that the state's border with Pakistan is being used for illicit trafficking of weapons for terrorists in Punjab. Dr Abdullah said as a preventive step all types of movements had already been restricted in the border villages during the night. A constant vigil is being maintained along the border to check the entry of terrorists and antinational elements.

Commentary Views Border Issue Developments

BK051120 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Sunil Roy political commentary: "China Favors Talks To Settle Border Issue"]

[Text] The essential ingredient to improve bilateral relations is mutual trust. The inadequacy of this prerequisite element prompted China to launch a border war in 1962 to settle score with India. Over the years, the battle for restoring confidence has been fought at different levels, but momentum has yet to pick up, and results achieved so far have been marginal if not negligible in the settlement of the long-standing border dispute. Occasionally, Chinese leaders have exuded optimism to settle the border dispute with India, but such hope has remained platitudinous and the border issue has not taken off the ground despite eight rounds of talks since 1981.

In this otherwise somber backdrop, the acting Chinese prime minister, Mr Li Peng, had something positive to say about the current state of Sino-Indian relations. Li was addressing the inaugural session of the Seventh National People's Congress—China's parliament—recently. This was Li's first statement on China's relations with India since he was named to succeed Zhao Ziyang, who became the boss of the powerful party machine. Li acknowledged that there had been gradual improvement in Beijing's relations with India in the past few years. He also expressed hope, in a report on government work to the National People's Congress, that both countries would settle their border dispute through friendly talks in order to develop relations further.

Li was merely reiterating China's position on the border issue and its repetition was an official exercise to keep the Chinese record straight. To quote Li's words: We hope that China and India will settle their border question in the spirit of mutual understanding and accommodation, and through friendly consultations so that our relations can be further developed, and that prior to the settlement of the question, peace and tranquillity will be maintained in the border region. What, perhaps, Li had in mind was the Sumdorong Chu incident in 1986 in Arunachal Pradesh through which the McMahon Line passes in the eastern sector. The Chinese had built roads, a few structures, and a helipad south of the actual line of control. The seventh round of border talks took place in Beijing in the dark shadow of this intrusion.

Although there has been no forward movement on the border question since the last round of talks in November last year, the emotive issue of the border continues to dominate the rest of relations. There is a formal trade agreement to step up the volume of trade in widely diversified items, but trade has not picked up to the desired level. The total turnover of trade between the two countries—Asia's two giant neighbors with a population of 2 billion—has not even crossed the $150 million mark. Between 1983 and 1987, Sino-American trade doubled to over $10 billion. Even trade between China and Taiwan via Hong Kong has markedly increased to reach $1.5 billion last year.

There has been a suggestion to raise the level of border talks from official to political. Eight rounds of talks have not resulted in any breakthrough. Nevertheless, these rounds of talks have been helpful to understand each other's position. Understanding the need for raising the level of discussion, China renewed its invitation to the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, a few months ago. Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in principle, has accepted this invitation. From all indications it is quite possible that an Indian minister with cabinet rank may visit Beijing. No worthwhile development has taken place to justify such a visit. It is evident that a cabinet minister's visit would prepare the ground for an eventual visit by the prime minister. During his brief visit to Arunachal Pradesh recently, the

prime minister, Mr Gandhi said that Sino-Indian border issue would be solved through mutual understanding and cooperation, as both countries are willing to maintain peace.

Gandhi Inaugurates Arunachal Satellite Station

BK040828 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 4 Apr 88

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, today naugurated a satellite earth station at Anini in Arunachal Pradesh. He spoke to the communications minister, Mr Vasant Sathe, in New Delhi. The 86-lakh-rupee station links this remote border district of the state with the rest of the country. Earlier, Mr Gandhi was given a warm welcome by tribals on his arrival to Arunachal Pradesh. The prime minister spoke to villagers about their problems. Speaking at a function, Mr Gandhi called for a fresh look at various schemes for people living in far-flung and thinly populated areas.

During his stay in Arunachal Pradesh, the prime minister will lay the foundation stone of the 405-megawatts Ranga Nadi hydel [hydroelectricity] project near (Yazali) in lower Subansiri District. The 355-crore-rupee project will be one of the largest in the northeastern region. Mr Gandhi will also lay the foundation stone of a bridge over Siang River at Pasighat. Earlier, the prime minister was received at Mohanbari Airport in Assam on his way to Arunachal Pradesh. The Arunachal Pradesh chief minister, Mr Gegong Apang, and the Assam home minister, Mr Brigu Kumar Phukan, were among those present at the airport.

INSAT-1C Satellite Slated for July Launch

BK050914 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] INSAT-1C is to be put into orbit by Ariane launcher in early July. The chairman of the space commission, Professor U.R. Rao, has said that the satellite will be moved to the launch pad at Kourou in French Guyana in South America next month. The satellite, an in-orbit spare for INSAT-1B, will undergo pre-launch checkouts for 55 days. Professor Rao said the design of INSAT-1D will be finalized this month. He said the augmented satellite launch vehicle is scheduled for launch in May.

Tamil Nadu Assembly Powers Bill Passed

BK051301 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, today indicated that elections to the Tamil Nadu assembly would be held in June. He told the Lok Sabha that the government is keen on holding the elections as early as possible. The revision of the electoral rolls is now in an advanced stage and is likely to be published next month. Piloting the Tamil Nadu State Legislature Delegation of Powers Bill, the home minister refuted the allegations that the ruling party is trying to promote its interests under president's rule in the state. The house passed the bill by voice vote after rejecting opposition amendments. It has already been adopted by the Rajya Sabha. The bill seeks to confer on the president the powers of Tamil Nadu assembly to make laws of the state.

Iran

Hijacking Situation Continues at Mashhad

Majlis Speaker on 'Plot'

LD051707 Tehran IRNA in English 1703 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 5 IRNA—Iran thinks the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airplane is a plot and probably an attempt for clouding the Iraqi regime's gruesome crime of chemically massacring Halabjah civilians, said Majlis speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, here Tuesday. He stressed that the Islamic Republic opposes hijacking and similar acts. The speaker said Iran has expressed its dissatisfaction to Kuwaiti officials over the hijacked plane's landing at Mashhad airport. But, he added, the Kuwaiti officials insist the plane and its hijackers stay in Iran till the issue is settled.

"Despite Kuwait's insistance," Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said, "we have asked our officials to solve the problem immediately if possible." Or else, he added, try to persuade the hijackers and the aircraft to leave Iran. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaking at the end of a nationwide session of Basij units commanders, told reporters that it is obvious Iran's enemy is vainly attempting to disrupt the coming parliamentary polls (April 8) by its attacks on residential regions. Therefore, he concluded, Iranian people ought to participate more decisively than before in the elections and give a tooth-crushing answer to Islam's foes.

Shaykh Sabah on Efforts

LD051745 Tehran IRNA in English 1740 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Kuwait, April 5, IRNA—Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah cabled a message to his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati Tuesday, lauding Iranian officials for their efforts to find a peaceful solution to the hijacking of a Kuwaiti airliner, currently at Mashhad airport. Shaykh Sabah's message said the Kuwaiti Government has full confidence in the measures taken by the Islamic Republic to peacefully settle the issue. The Kuwaiti foreign minister also felt confident that Iranian officials will continue their sincere efforts to resolve the issue peacefully without any bloodshed. [passage omitted]

Mo'ayeri on Situation

NC051829 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 5 Apr 88

["Text" of telephone conversation between Deputy Prime Minister 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri from Mashhad airport and unnamed Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran reporter from Tehran studio—live; inset of Mo'ayeri and still of hijacked Kuwaiti airliner shown intermittently]

[Text] [Reporter] Mr Mo'ayeri, greetings. We heard the news report that a Kuwaiti airliner was hijacked today, and that despite Iran's reluctance, it made an emergency landing at Mashhad airport. Could you please inform our viewers about the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner and the latest developments?

[Mo'ayeri] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: I convey my salutations to the dear viewers. In the early hours of this morning, we were informed that an unidentified airplane had entered Iranian airspace and was requesting permission to make an emergency landing at Mashhad airport because of a fuel shortage. In view of the humanitarian aspects and the emergency faced by the pilot, the airliner was given permission to land at Mashhad.

Immediately, his excellency the prime minister assigned a team to travel to Mashhad in order to get information on the incident and to follow up the matter. The exact identity of the hijackers is still not clear to us at the present time. However, they are conversing in Arabic. Efforts were made to establish contact with them as soon as the team arrived at the airport so that we could determine the general condition of the passengers. There are approximately 96 passengers and 16 crew members—112 in all. A Jordanian citizen who felt sick was removed from the airliner and accorded medical treatment. He is currently in stable condition.

At 1830 hours [1500 GMT], the hijackers issued a statement demanding the release of 17 prisoners who, they claim, are imprisoned in Kuwait and being subjected to torture. We informed the Kuwaiti authorities about the hijackers' request through our embassy and our charge d'affaires in Kuwait and are awaiting their reply.

[Reporter] Mr Mo'ayeri, as you mentioned, these hijackers speak Arabic. However, have the nationalities of the passengers been ascertained, that is, what countries are they from?

[Mo'ayeri] They have been identified to a certain extent. Of the passengers, 35 are Kuwaiti, while others are British, Thai, Filipino, and some other nationalities. We asked the hijackers first, to permit all passengers to leave the airplane and that women be given priority in this regard.

[Reporter] As the viewers are aware, the Islamic Republic of Iran was not prepared initially to allow the airliner to land at an Iranian airport. Indeed, the airport had been closed. However, permission to land was granted only as an emergency step. What is the Islamic Republic of Iran considering to do to end the incident?

[Mo'ayeri] While condemning hijacking in general, we are mustering all efforts so that this issue may be resolved in the shortest time possible without any casualties and so that all the passengers are able to leave the airliner safely.

[Reporter] Thank you very much, Mr Mo'ayeri, for your participation in this direct telephone conversation with us from Mashhad.

[Mo'ayeri] I also thank you very much.

Prisoners' Release Demanded

NC051835 Paris AFP in English 1823 GMT 5 Apr 88

[TExcerpt] Kuwait, April 5 (AFP)—[Passage omitted] The Arabic-speaking hijackers demanded the release of 17 "political prisoners" held by Kuwait, Teheran radio reported, quoting a statement released by the hijackers after several hours on the ground. The Kuwaiti leadership considers the demand "unacceptable," according to a well-informed source close to the government. "It is out of the question to satisfy these demands," the source said. "If Kuwait gives in once to blackmail it will have to live always under the threat of terrorism."

Royal Family Members in Danger

NC051958 Tehran Television Service in Arabic 1940 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] According to a report we have received, the hijackers of the Kuwaiti plane are six Arabs. They issued a statement calling on the Kuwaiti Government to release 17 political prisoners being held in Kuwaiti prisons. The Central News Unit has reported that the hijackers contacted the control tower at Mashhad airport at 2015 today and renewed their above demand. They said that there are a number of Al-Sabah family members among the plane passengers and their lives will be in danger if Kuwait does not accept their demand.

Hijackers Issue Statement

LD051952 Tehran IRNA in English 1945 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 5, IRNA—The following statement was issued by the hijackers of the Kuwait airliner which was forced to land at Mashhad airport Tuesday. The statement was read in Arabic at 18:30 hours local time (15 GMT) and received by the control tower of the airport.

"In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful,

"We are oppressed and our right has been usurped by the Kuwaiti Government which is a backer of U.S. imperialism and which puts all resources of Muslims at their (U.S. imperialism) disposal regardless of our rights. Therefore, we ask you Iranian officials to mediate between us and the Kuwait Government if you want.

"Our right has been usurped. We are under worst tortures in Iraq and Kuwait. We have 17 prisoners in Kuwait jails who are under worst kinds of tortures. We are informed that some of them (the prisoners) have been hospitalised due to severity of their wounds. They are not granted any rights as prisoners.

"We request (the Kuwaiti Government) to release these 17 prisoners and this is our main demand to free the passenger. We are ready to cooperate with them (the Kuwaiti Government) and if they accept our demand we will prove our good will. If you (Iranian officials) do not want to mediate, we will ask for fuel and other needs and then take off."

It is still unclear to what group or organisation the Arabic-speaking hijackers belong.

Shaykh Sabah Rejects Demand

LD051942 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1830 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Following the demand of the hijackers of the Kuwaiti plane that the government of that country rleease 17 political prisoners in Kuwait, the foreign minister of Kuwait, in a message replying to this demand announced: We have not previously accepted this request and do not accept it now either. We do not accept this threat. These prisoners are treated well and some of the members of their families came to Kuwait and met them. According to the Central News Unit, the foreign minister of Kuwait also said in this message: We advise that an experience that might carry victims [qorbani] as a consequence should not be insisted on. There are other ways to solve this problem.

Velayati Expresses 'Regret'

LD052200 Tehran IRNA in English 2151 GMT 5 Apr 88

["Velayati Says Iran Is Doing Its Best To Peacefully End the Hijacking"—IRNA headline]

[Excerpt] Tehran, April 6, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in a reply message to his Kuwaiti counterpart Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad Al Sabah Tuesday expressed regret over the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner which was forced to land at Iran's Mashhad airport Tuesday morning. The foreign minister, saying that the Islamic Republic is against any act jeopardizing lives of innocent people, noted that Iranian officials are still trying to settle the issue peacefully. Velayati's message was in response to a message from his Kuwaiti counterpart earlier Tuesday in which he lauded Iranian officials for their efforts to put a peaceful end to the problem. [passage omitted]

UK Minister Says 'No Deal'

LD060915 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 0850 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Junior Foreign Minister Mrs Lynda Chalker delivered a strong "no deal" message to the hijackers. She condemned the seizure of the airliner as a "blatant act of terrorism" and said: "There will be no deal. That's the policy of the government." She accepted that this could put hostages' lives at risk, but said doing deals simply paved the way for more to be taken in future.

Speaking on BBC Radio Four, she said the government would take "whatever steps are necessary to b ring the act of terrorism to a speedy and peaceful end for all concerned and arrest for the terrorists involved." She would be in constant touch with the foreign secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, and with Mrs Thatcher, who was beginning an official visit to Turkey today. A Foreign Office emergency unit had been working through the night and the effort would continue until the situation was resolved. Mrs Chalker said she would be meeting the Kuwaiti ambassador and his Swedish counterpart, whose country looks after Britain's interests in Iran. She would also see the Iranian charge d'affaires in London, whom she described as "helpful".

False Bahraini Passports Used

NC060804 Paris AFP in English 0800 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Manama, April 6 (AFP)—Four men on a Kuwait Airways plane hijacked to northeastern Iran's Mashhad Airport boarded using false Bahraini passports, according to Bahraini officials quoted Wednesday by the GULF DAILY NEWS. The newspaper said that the four could be hijackers, noting that false Bahraini passports were used in earlier "terrorist" acts, including an April 1987 attack in Cyprus by two Arab gunmen on two British nationals, a soldier and a young girl.

Bahrain authorities found no trace in the official register of the four "Bahrainis" who reportedly boarded the Bangkok-Kuwait flight that was hijacked Tuesday morning over the southern Gulf, the newspaper said. The four were identified as Hamad al-Jalwan, Jum'ah Zayd al-Nakhlah, Ahmad Jabir al-Mansur and Hamdan Rashid al-Fawar. Officials told the newspaper that the names did not appear Bahraini. [passage omitted]

American Among Passengers

LD051729 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1657 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] According to a REUTER's report, the head of the Kuwait Airlines Company in Bangkok said: Thirty Kuwaitis, including 4 members of the royal family are among the passengers on the plane. He said: Twenty-two Britons, 2 Iraqis, and 1 American of Egyptian origin are also among the passengers.

24 Female Passengers Released

LD052326 Tehran IRNA in English 2324 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 6, IRNA—Hijackers of the Kuwaiti airliner released 24 female passengers. The 24 female passengers released by the hijackers were moved to a hotel in Mashhad after a short stop at the airport. Most of them believed the hijackers had treated them gently. The women who were still anxious after some 20 hours in captivity, thanked Iranian officials for securing their release. The group includes five crewmembers of the airline. An Egyptian member of the crew said it was not possible to precisely find out the number of the hijackers and their nationality because, she said, they have covered their faces.

Another freed lady could not say how many more ladies were inside the plane but said there were no children among them. Two British and Irish women were worried about their husbands who they said were among the passengers. The hijackers have not released any Kuwaiti ladies yet. The freed ones are 10 Britons, three Thais, three Egyptians, one Filipino, one Palestinian, one Singaporean, one Irish, one German, one Austrian, one Syrian, and one Pakistani.

The Egyptian crewmembers are among the freed group but the Kuwaiti members of the crew are still being held by the hijackers. According to latest reports, the hijackers are insisting on their demand for the Kuwaiti Government to release 17 political prisoners in Kuwait. Iranian officials at the same time are continuing their efforts to settle the matter peacefully.

More on Release of Women

LD060357 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] In the wake of continuous efforts by officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran to release the hostages of the hijacked Kuwaiti plane, at 0230 the hijackers began releasing 24 women passengers of this plane. According to a report by the Central News Unit, the freed passengers, in an interview with correspondents after arriving at Mashhad airport's terminal, described the treatment they received from the hijackers as good. However, they expressed concern for the fate of the remaining hostages on board the hijacked plane.

One member of the crew, an Egyptian subject, said: All during the time in the plane, I did not at all feel like a hostage. I noticed that the hijackers have some sacred objectives, which we respect, too.

The Iranian delegation continues its efforts to have all the passengers released. According to the same report, 25 [as heard] of the freed hostages were taken to a hotel in Mashhad. It is worth mentioning that yesterday the hijackers released a male passenger who needed immediate medical attention. It is still not clear whether any women remain onboard the plane.

Physician Summoned

LD060932 Tehran IRNA in English 0920 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 6, IRNA—Following a request by the hijackers, an Iranian physician was immediately taken into the Kuwaiti airliner to treat some passengers who reportedly did not feel well. Dr. Qassemi, the Iranian physian, after returning from the plane told IRNA that he had treated two Arab-speaking ladies who he said were probably Kuwaitis. He said the condition of one of them was not satisfactory and that the hijackers had turned down a request by him to allow the two to leave the plane. So far, 24 ladies have been freed and it is believed two more are inside the plane. Dr. Qassemi said he had seen three of the hijackers who had masked their faces and talked to one of them in English.

Sabah Replies to Velayati

LD060928 Kuwait KUNA in English 0805 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Excerpts] Tehran, April 6 (KUNA)—Hijackers of the Kuwaiti Boeing 747 have released 24 of the women passengers from different nationalities except the two Kuwaiti ladies on board. Radio Tehran said early Wednesday that among the 24 women passengers released at dawn today were 10 Britons, and one lady each from Ireland, Egypt, Philippines, Palestine, Singapore, Germany, Holland, Austria, Syria and Pakistan. The radio broadcast did not refer to the two Kuwaiti ladies aboard whose names appeared on the boarding list of the airliner. [passage omitted]

The radio however, quoted 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri the political adviser to the Iranian premier as saying efforts to have all passengers of the plane released and the hijacking issue resolved peacefully are continuing. The Iranian Foreign Ministry had asked the Kuwaiti Government to despatch a 3-man delegation to Iran, the radio said, adding the Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati had sent a message last night to the deputy premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir on the subject.

In his message to Shaykh Sabah, Velayati said "We oppose any action endangering innocent lives and we regret the incident of the Kuwaiti airliner and will do the

utmost to put a peaceful end to the hijacking." KUNA learnt a Kuwaiti delegation will head for Tehran later today grouping officials from the Foreign Ministry, Kuwait Airways Corporation and the Civil Aviation Department in addition to a medical team. The Council of Ministers in Kuwait held an extraordinary session last night under H.H. the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al- Sabah to discuss the hijacking. Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashid 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rashid said after the Cabinet meeting that the minister discussed developments of the hijacking of the Boeing 747, which was on a scheduled flight from Bangkok to Kuwait yesterday morning.

The Cabinet was kept abreast with the contacts between the Iranian authorities and the hijackers to free the passengers and the airliner, he added. In response to the request of the Iranian authorities and in order to foster their efforts, the Council of Ministers decided to send a Kuwaiti delegation to facilitate the efforts of Iran in securing the release of the airliner and the passengers and crew. While affirming the contents of the Kuwait Foreign Ministry statement yesterday, the Council of Ministers expresses satisfaction with the announcement made by Iran's Premier Mir Hoseyn Musavi and the message of Dr Velayati to the deputy premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad in which Dr Velayati emphasised the deep concern of Iran with the safety of the innocent passengers, Rashid said. The Council of Ministers in Kuwait wishes the Iranian authorities success in their efforts to release the plane and passengers, Rashid said.

Kuwaiti Delegation Arrives

LD061406 Tehran IRNA in English 1400 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., April 6, IRNA—A Kuwaiti delegation arrived here at 15:40 hours local time (12:10 GMT) Wednesday in an effort to reach a settlement with hijackers of a Kuwaiti airliner parked at the airport here since early Tuesday morning. The Kuwaiti delegation comprises of that country's Foreign Ministry officials and a medical team. They have now conferred with an Iranian Foreign Ministry representative. [passage omitted]

New Destination Threatened

LD061109 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] The hijackers of the Kuwaiti airliner have issued a message threatening that unless their demand is accepted they will fly to another destination. IRNA correspondents report form Mashhad airport that the deadline set by the hijackers of the Kuwaiti 747 airliner coming close the hijackers have toughened their tone and have issued a message addressed to the governments of Iran and Kuwait. The message says: No matter what pressure is used we shall in no way back down on our demands. We have not found you having good will. The message also says that time is running out. So far, it says you have done nothing for us. We do not have any confidence that the negotiations will take place in a speedy manner. For this reason, the message says we deem it necessary, if we do not achieve results here, to fly to another destination.

Kharazzi Interviewed on Missiles, Hijacking

LD061229 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Mr Kharrazi, head of the WIH, gave an interview to Iranian and foreign correspondents this morning. He answered their questions about the war, the missile attacks, and the chemical bombing by the Iraqi Zionist regime against Iran. In this interview he addressed the foreign correspondents who recently visited the "Val-Fajr-10" operational zone to see the results of the chemical bombing of Halabjah in Iraq, and the bombing of residential areas in Tabriz. He said: During your visit you have seen the results of the crimes and aggression committed by Iraq's Zionist regime. You have seen how the Iraqi and the Iranian people have become victims of the crimes committed by the bloodsucking regime ruling over Iraq. Such a regime, if allowed to remain in power and to become more powerful, will create many more problems in the region. Because of the crimes you have seen, we insist that the aggressor should be punished.

The WIH head criticized the way in which the UN Security Council operates and said: In 1980, when Iraq's aggression began, this council remained silent and did nothing. Even now, instead of identifying the aggressor, the council is practically encouraging him and provides the means for the aggression to be prolonged. At the same time, this council is trying to impose an arms embargo against us. The WIH head then thanked governments, organizations, and individuals who have condemned the Zionist regime of Iraq and said: Condemnation alone is not enough. We should search for practical ways to prevent the crimes of the Iraqi regime from being repeated. He called on world public opinion and on philanthropists to put pressure on their governments to stop providing the Iraqi regime with chemicals and destructive weapons.

Replying to a question about the effects of an arms embargo, the WIH head said: The plan to impose an arms embargo will strengthen our resolve to build and produce all kinds of weapons inside the country. An arms embargo will not end the war; rather it will push us toward self-sufficiency.

Speaking about the area taken by the fighters of Islam in the "Val-Fajr-10" and "Bayt al-Moqaddas-4" operations, he said: Our fighters have crossed the Halabjah heights and have reached Darbandi Khan lake. At present, our western front is the Darbandi Khan lake which provides a natural line of defense. We have advanced to the vicinity of the town of Sayyid Sadiq.

The WIH head, commenting on the effects of the hijacking on the relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Arab world, said: The hijacking will have no particular effect on our relations and we hope that, seeing our good intentions to findi a peaceful solution to the problem, they will improve their relations with us.

About Iran's use of chemical weapons against Iraq, Mr Kharrazi said: We have never used chemical weapons and although we have the capability to produce such weapons, we have not even taken steps to produce them. We hope we will never be forced to use them. But our patience has a limit and this limit has a direct relation to the steps taken by international organizations.

Musavi on Determination To Stand Against Iraq

LD061309 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Excerpts] The Central News Unit reports that in this morning's Cabinet session the major domestic and foreign developments were discussed. Later, Interior Minister Mohtashami gave a report on the steps taken with regard to the Majlis elections and the election of the Assembly of Experts. The Cabinet stressed the importance of the people's extensive participation in those elections and supported the need to mobilize government resources to meet the requirements of the Interior Ministry and for dealing with offenders in the conduct of the elections. [passage omitted]

At the end of the Cabinet meeting, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi talked about the Saddam regime's crimes in attacking the cities. He said: The intensification of Saddam's crimes is aimed at disrupting the elections. However, Saddam and his supporters must realize that the bombing raids will not only fail to prevent the elections from taking place but will lead our revolutionary people to appreciate even more the importance of those elections. The government declares that the elections will take place, regardless of any efforts made by global arrogance, and the people will elect their representatives as a rebuff to the United States and its servant, Saddam.

Musavi added: Saddam will not be able to escape his grim fate, he must answer for all his crimes. Our people hold that the superpowers are partners in these crimes and threats. They will certainly reply to those crimes. The prime minister went on: Those crimes demonstrate to the international public why Iran refuses to compromise, for compromise with Saddam is tantamount to allowing a half-dead beast to be revived and make it possible for him to create a tragedy worse than the first one. A savage beast which, with the backing of global colonialism, clearly says humanitarian principles mean nothing to him, cannot be conducive to peace and tranquillity in the region. Our nation today has felt the depth of the Iraqi Ba'thist wickedness and is prepared, by sacrifices and hardships, to uproot that cancer once and for all.

Voting Form of Fighting 'Colonialism'

LD031836 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 3 Apr 88

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The third Majlis elections are nearing. In years past, the Iranian nation went to the polls many times and marked passages in its history with its votes. Using these destiny-making votes, it has changed the course of world history by founding one of the most glorious democracies in world history. If democracy means the the vote of the majority, then in Iran the vote of the entire population has provided the power for action. [passage omitted]

It is not accidental that whenever there is an election in Iran, colonialist plots against the Iranian nation increase. On the eve of the third Majlis election, we are facing the wide-ranging plots of the enemies of Islam and humanity. Ensuring that these elections are properly carried out will deliver a good answer to the enemies of Iran and Islam. To go to the polls today and vote for an individual that one trusts—thus participating in the destiny of one's country—is a form of fighting colonialism and international oppression. This fact must be even more clear and tangible to those compatriots who live in the capital of the revolution. The answer to the enemy's missile attacks must come in many ways. One such way is to use your right to vote to determine the destiny of your nation in the face of international colonialism.

O, people of Iran. You who have cut off the hands of superpowers from Iran, and have exiled two-faced and dissenting agents of colonialism from your country. You must participate in the elections with more fervor and vote for those whom you trust. We all fully understand that taking note of the message of the imam of ummah regarding the elections will smooth our path in the future and satisfy our responsibility regarding the elections. Every Iranian will go to the polling stations on Friday in order to raise the flag of national independence. Any vote cast is another blow on the head of international oppression.

To go to the polling station and vote for those one trusts is like going to the fronts and attacking the enemies of Iran and Islam, a religious and national duty which on its own is a fundamental struggle against colonialism and the mischievous plots of international oppression and U.S. imperialism. The hezbollah across Iran will be going to the polling stations on Friday.

Candidates Warned Against Using IRGC Insignia

LD021305 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 2 Apr 88

[Excerpt] IRNA reports that the representative office of the imam on the IRGC issued a statement today which warns on the use of the insignia of the IRGC, combatants, and combat units in electioneering publicity by

candidates for the third session of the Majlis. The statement says, in part: According to the instruction of his holiness the imam, may his shadow continue, the IRGC is forbidden to interfere in the elections in way. Therefore such propaganda usage has nothing to do with the IRGC and Mobilization forces. Those abusing will be prosecuted. A headquarters has been set up, under the direct supervision of the imam's representative office in the IRGC, to supervise this affair. [passage omitted]

Missile Strikes, Ground Operations Continue

Communique on Umm Qasr Attack

LD051124 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] The IRGC General Staff announced in a communique: In retaliation for the beastly attacks of the Iraqi warmongering regime in the raids on our country's residential areas, the combatants of the missile unit of the IRGC Ground Forces last night and today, fired 12 surface-to-surface missiles against the economic and military installations of the Iraqi port of Umm Qasr, inflictiang heavy losses and casualties on the enemy. The fire and smoke rising from destruction of the enemy installations is still visible in the sky above the region. Also today, the military and industrial centers of Basra were the target of intense artillery fire by the IRGC Ground Forces, which killed or wounded hundreds of enemy troops.

Iraq Resumes Missile Attacks

LD051450 Tehran IRNA in English 1443 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 5 IRNA—More civilians were martyred and wounded in the resumption of Iraqi missile attacks on the capital today. Enemy warplanes raided Dezful also today afternoon. A mosque, some housing units and several cars were damaged in the fresh Iraqi missile attacks on Tehran, which broke a calm of several days. Some houses and shops were destroyed in the course of Iraqi air raid on Dezful.

Communique No 3,163

LD051645 Tehran IRNA in English 1633 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 5, IRNA—An Iraqi PC7 plane was shot down by Iranian anti-aircraft fire in "Val-Fajr-10" operational theater, northeastern Iraq at 11:32 hours local time (08:02 GMT) Tuesday, said a military communique here today. The 3163d joint staff communique said that Iran's naval gunboats intercepted and searched an oil tanker and two cargo ships in the Strait of Hormuz Monday but allowed them to continue voyage after making certain they were not carrying cargo for Iraq. The Islamic Republic Air Force effectively carried out reconnaissance flights over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman Monday.

Iran's Muslim combatants continued shelling Iraqi positions, troop concentration sites and supply routes throughout the battlefields yesterday, inflicting substantial casualties and losses on the enemy. Iranian artillery fire repelled an Iraqi patrol unit attempting to infiltrate positions of the Muslim combatants in Sayyid Sadiq operational theater, northeastern Iraq, Monday. In Mehran and Badrah, western sector, Iraqi troops sustained heavy casualties and losses as their motorized columns were shelled by Iranian combatants yesterday. Iranian Gendarmerie forces suppressed all Iraqi military operations in parts of the southern and western fronts yesterday, concluded the communique.

2 Missiles Fired at Baghdad

LD051734 Tehran IRNA in English 1730 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 5, IRNA—Two surface-to-surface missiles were fired at two important military centers in Baghdad at 20:15 and 20:20 hours local time (16:45 and 16:50 GMT) today. According to a statement issued by the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps, the attacks were in response to Tuesday's enemy missile and air attacks on Iran's civilian quarters which caused heavy casualties and damage.

Peshmerga Operations Detailed

LD051919 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] According to the Ramadan Headquarters, center for the irregular warfare of the IRGC Ground Forces, in the course of the past few days the forces of the Democratic Party of Iraqi Kurdistan carried out an ambush operation on the Dahuk-(Zavitah) road, infiltrated (Baraq) village, and killed and wounded a number of mercenary forces of the Iraqi regime. Among the dead was the corpse of one of the commanders of the Iraqi intelligence section of the Iraqi forces. Also during this clash a number of the vehicles belonging to the enemy were destroyed.

The same report states that these forces infiltrated the city of 'Aqrah in Iraq's Dahuk Province and fired on military and economic centers there, inflicting many losses and casualties on that city. Also during this clash, a number of enemy troops were captured and a substantial amount of armor, weapons, and a radio were taken as booty by the peshmerga. This same report states the mujahidin of the Martyr Sadr branch of the Islamic Hizb al-Da'wa of Iraq, in the course of a mine-planting operation on the (Kolpan) and (Pana) roads, destroyed an enemy military vehicle and in (Maidan Rabala) in Dahuk Province they destroyed a base and set fire to 2 ammunition dumps, and killed or wounded more than 40 Iraqi mercenaries.

5 Missiles Fired at Basra

LD060500 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Dear listeners, here is a report that I just received: The Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran announces: In retaliation for the missile attacks and air raids by the Iraqi criminal regime on our country's residential areas, the fighters of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran fired five surface-to-surface missiles on military and economic targets of Basra at 2340, 2350 and 2400 last night, and 0045 and 0150 this morning.

Missile Kills 6 in Tehran

LD060750 Tehran IRNA in English 0725 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 6, IRNA—Civilian quarters including a hospital were hit by Iraqi long-range missiles this morning. According to early reports, a number of people including six children were martyred and some others wounded during the attacks. This was the second missile attack on Tehran after a lull of a few days. Tuesday also residential areas were subjected to Iraqi missile attacks as result of which several people were martyred and wounded and some property damage was inflicted.

Iraqi MiG Downed Over Ilam

LD060858 Tehran IRNA in English 0847 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 6, IRNA—An Iraqi MiG-23 was shot down by Iranian anti-aircraft fire in Ilam, western Iran, at 09:10 hours local time (05:40 GMT) Wednesday, said a Joint Staff communique here today.

Iraqi Pilot Killed Over Ilam

LD061207 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] According to latest reports, Captain Mahmud Zakir Muhammad, pilot of the Iraqi MiG-23 which was downed by the fighters of Islam in Ilam this morning, was killed. The body has been recovered.

Iraqi Air Raids on Cities

LD061114 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Continuing its barbarous measures the Zionist Iraqi regime this morning carried out missile attacks on residential areas of Tehran, martyring 15 citizens and injuring a number of other people. Houses and commercial buildings were also damaged. According to reports, a hospital was also hit by one of the criminal enemy's missiles, destroying part of ths hospital, including its nursery section. Three children who were playing in the nursery were martyred and several others wounded. This morning, the criminal Iraqi regime's aircraft also raided residential areas of the cities of Orumiyeh, Ilam, (Eslamabad-e Gharb), Salmas, Masjed-Soleyman, Dezful, and Shushtar. A number of our compatriots were martyred or injured in these attacks. Homes and public buildings, including two mosques, were also damaged.

6 Bombing Missions Against Iraq

LD061122 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran reports: The brave pilots of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in six separate missions, heavily bombed the Zionist enemy's troop concentration, positions, fortifications, and armored equipment at 0750, 0755, 0830, 0845, 1105, and 1110 today in Iraq's Sharahani, Sayyid Sadiq, and Shanadari regions. After inflicting heavy losses and casualties on the Zionist enemy all the aircraft returned safely to their bases.

Artillery Shells Iraqi Cities

LD061215 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran announces that in retaliation for the acts of wickedness by the criminal Baghdad rulers against residential areas of our cities, the victorious members of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran brought under their heavy artillery fire military and economic installations in the cities of Khanaqin, Banmil, Naft Khaneh, 'Ali Gharbi, Basra, the Al-Sulaymaniyah garrison and power station, and the intelligence building in Qal'ah Dizah, inflicting heavy losses and casualties on the enemy.

Pakistan

AFP: 4 Apr Avalanches Take 'Heavy Toll'

BK060120 Hong Kong AFP in English 1928 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Text] Islamabad, April 5 (AFP)—Two avalanches in northeastern Pakistan have taken a "heavy toll of human life" including a number of Pakistani soldiers guarding the frontier with India, official sources said here Tuesday. The avalanches struck Monday near the Siachen Glacier, in the disputed Kashmir region, and took "a heavy toll of human life, including (Pakistani) soldiers" deployed in the area. Exact numbers of casualties were not immediately available. The avalanches buried a large area in the vicinity of the glacier, one of the world's biggest, according to reports reaching here.

Official sources said rescue operations had been launched and added that most survivors had been evacuated from the mountainous area. Pakistani and Indian border troops face each other in the disputed Kashmir area. The two countries fought two wars in 1947 and 1965 over the predominantly Moslem territory, much of

which is controlled by India as Jammu and Kashmir State. Several deadly avalanches have hit northern areas of Pakistan since early March. One killed at least 80 people in the Korak area of Skardu District on March 12, while another left about 50 dead at Arindo village in northeastern Pakistan's Baltistan District March 25, according to reports.

Libyan Deputy Foreign Minister Meets President

BK011640 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 1 Apr 88

[Text] The Libyan deputy foreign minister, Mr (Miftah Mahdi) called on the president in Rawalpindi today. They discussed bilateral relations and issues relating to the Muslim ummah, including the Afghanistan problem, Iran-Iraq war, and the Palestinian problem.

DAWN Views Need for Defense Cuts

BK021203 Karachi DAWN in English 26 Mar 88 p 2

[Editorial: "Defense, Development, and Budgetary Deficit"]

[Text] The World Bank laid down some time ago certain conditions for continued commitment of Consortium assistance and has since been insisting on their fulfilment. These conditions include an increase in user charges, expansion of the tax base, withdrawal of subsidies, improvement of tax administration, and liberalisation of imports. The latest addition to this set of conditions is reported to be a cut of one per cent in defence expenditure in real terms each year over the next five years. (In terms of current prices the reduction asked for would come to over 6 percent, if an allowance were made for the official rate of inflation). The idea is to contain the widening deficit in the current budget and finally to eliminate it by the end of the Seventh Plan.

The World Bank's concern for budget deficits stems from the apprehension that the accumulated debts which are owed to the World Bank-led Consortium may not be serviced wholly and on time and the Government may have to ask for rescheduling to avoid defaults. Already about 35 percent of the Government's current revenues are devoted to the repayment of debts, both external and domestic, and about 75 percent of fresh foreign loans go towards servicing external debts. The current budget contributes less than 10 percent to nation-building activities, the rest being committed, apart from debt-servicing, to defence (40 percent) and administration and law and order (15 percent). The 40 percent defence expenditure is calculated on the basis of evident budgetary allocations. Otherwise, according to Air Marshal Zafar Chowdhury, it comes to about 60 percent. This reckoning perhaps takes account of expenditures on paramilitary forces, maintenance of the strategic infrastructure and repayment of debt on account of defence.

Our concern for budgetary deficits stems from broader considerations than those of the World Bank. It arises from the fact that with the present dispensation, the country is unable to find adequate resources for economic development and the social sectors. Thus, pruning of current avoidable expenditures has become crucial as the present scale of budgetary deficit—36 billion rupees during the Sixth Plan and a projected deficit of 136 billion rupees (wiohout additional resource mobilisation) during the Seventh Plan—can be continued only at the risk of insolvency. Defence is an extremely important and sensitive issue for any country. It is more so for Pakistan because of its security environment.

Although civilian Governments always took full care of the country's defence requirements and allocated resources to defence even at the expense of social services and economic development, defence spending increased manifold during the martial law regimes when civilian control on expenditure and popular accountability had ceased to exist. During the last Martial Law, it increased from 2.674 billion rupees in 1977-78 to 33.756 billion rupees in 1985-86. Ironically, the World Bank did not feel at that time the need to advise restraint.

The planners themselves have recognised the need to hold down increases in spending on defence and administration, and the Seventh Plan has proposed a freeze at the 1987-88 level during the first year of the Plan and a three percent growth in nominal terms over the subsequent four years. Lt-Gen (Retired) Sayyed Qadir is reported to have proposed in the parliamentary committee on the Seventh Plan that the defence expenditure be actually reduced by four billion rupees in absolute terms—from 44 billion rupees in 1987-88 to 40 billion rupees in the terminal year of the Plan. Defence experts have estimated substantial wastage in defence spending—a figure of 15 percent is mentioned in this connection, although a much higher figure is reported for other government departments.

Reduction to the extent of waste should not pose any problem or affect the efficiency of the armed forces. The concept of defence in recent times has undergone a sea-change. Today defence against foreign aggression requires active participation of the entire population. Battles are not fought on the borders alone but also deep in the interior, on farms and in factories, in educational institutions and the market place. Vietnam, Algeria and recently Afghanistan have shown that regular standing armies, even of the superpowers, are incapable of vanquishing a determined people inspired by liberty and patriotism and having a sense of stake in the country's freedom.

It is axiomatic that modern defence is inconceivable without industrial and technological advancement. Freedom cannot be defended with borrowed weapons. The two wars of 1965 and 1971 have well proved this point as well as the fact that a politically alienated population is incapable of defending its national sovereignty. It is in

view of these developments that many defence experts have proposed a reduction in the size of the armed forces and in defence spending and a diversion of the funds thus saved to development of human and material resources. Air Marshal Zafar Chowdhury has proposed a reduction in the size of the defence forces to about one-third of the present strength.

He, Gen K.M. Shaikh and Gen Majid Malik have advocated a structural reorganisation of the forces whereby a small, highly trained, and well-equipped army would constitute the nucleus, with the territorial or regional forces acting as an effective reserve. Such formations would promote national unity by enabling the smaller provinces to play a greater role in the defence of the country. The raising of such an efficient fighting reserve is extremely cost-efficient. In the UK the territorial army, capable of mobilisation within 48 hours, was in 1984 about 25 to 33 percent of the regular army but cost 4.4 percent of the army budget or 1.4 percent of the total defence spending. While providing for effective defence against foreign aggression, a poor country like Pakistan must take care that it is left with sufficient resources for educational and scientific advancement and for the ecopomic uplift of the people—factors which are crucial determinants of a country's capacity to defend its national sovereignty.